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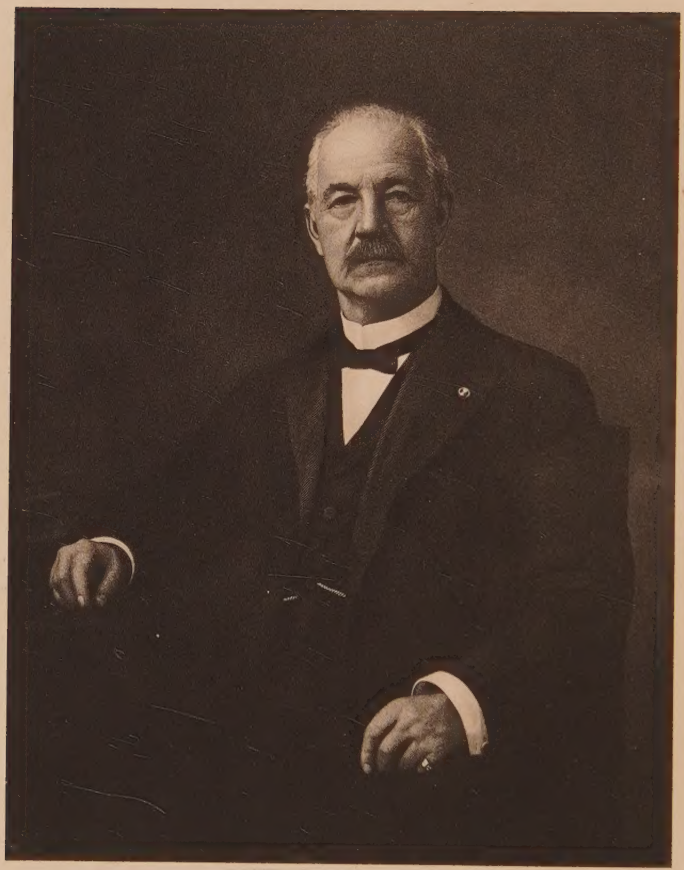

Moses Greeley Parker M. D.

F. H. Coburn

MOSES GREELEY PARKER, M. D.

Lowell, Massachusetts
Privately Printed
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INDEX.

Chapter		Page
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Parents	3
III.	Earlier Ancestry	8
IV.	Boyhood	20
V.	Student Days	26
VI.	Military Service	35
VII.	Home Again	82
VIII.	Medical Career: At Home and Abroad	86
IX.	Participation in Telephone Development	104
X.	Electrical Research	119
XI.	Genealogical and Historical Activities	124
XII.	Charitable Affiliations	159
XIII.	The Moses Greeley Parker Foundation	174
XIV.	Social Relations	178
XV.	Last Years	184
	Resolutions	191

FOREWORD.

This biography is the work of Frederick W. Coburn, and has been prepared from diaries, documents, and other original sources, in accordance with the instruction contained in the fourteenth clause of Dr. Parker's will, which directed his sister and his nephew "to have my biography written by a competent person, and when the same shall have been written, to have the same published."

LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS.
March 1, 1922.

Chapter I.

INTRODUCTION.

Moses Greeley Parker was born in Dracut, Massachusetts, October 12, 1842. His life of nearly seventy-six years was spent, except for brief periods of travel, study and military service, within the original limits of the old township on the north side of the Merrimack River which was set apart from Chelmsford in 1701. He lived in but two houses, his birthplace, and that which, as a young man, he bought in the Centralville district of the City of Lowell, formerly known as Dracut Heights. His career was, essentially, that of a provincial physician. While following this, however, under the urgence of instincts whose provenance must be sought in the facts of his heredity, he achieved an international reputation through discoveries and inventions in medical and electrical science, and he played an important part in universalizing the use of the telephone. His dominant qualities of mind were such as a Bergson or an Adler might have liked to study. They illustrated the inner forces that infallibly, whatever the conditions of environment, seek expression along predetermined

lines; an inquiring spirit that prompted toward research and independent investigation; a vivid sense of cause and effect which made the man remarkable in his medical practice for diagnosis and prognosis, and in business a keen analyst and clever prophet; thrift and forethought and the collector's instinct which conjointly gave zest to the accumulation of a fortune; a native kindliness which showed itself in many acts of devoted personal service and of systematic giving of skill and means to a few closely observed good causes.

Limitations and negative characteristics must be noted in any intimate and sympathetic study of a man. Dr. Parker's personality, except when he was among proved friends, was somewhat reserved and unexpansive. He was cautious in money matters, regarding property as something sacred and not to be dissipated in gratification of whim or impulse. Despite his predilection for scientific work, he had a mental desultoriness which caused him to go from one line of investigation to another without exhausting the possibilities of any; save in his long connection with the development of telephony he did not persist in any one form of endeavor.

Birthplace of Moses Greeley Parker
Dracut, Massachusetts

Chapter II.

PARENTS.

The parental background, in a pleasant, comfortable homestead at the east end of the township of Dracut, was that projected by the personalities of Theodore Parker and Hannah Greeley Parker, his second wife. It was a good home in which to be born. Both father and mother were superior persons, well above the average of town and time in mind, morality and material possessions. Their social affiliations were with the comparatively few families of the neighborhood who led in maintaining civic and religious institutions.

Behind each of them was an ancestry of which their children might well be proud.

Theodore Parker, born September 20, 1799, being the youngest son of Peter Parker, also of Dracut, was a man of marked morality. He was not emotionally religious. He belonged to the Baptist Church at Methuen and, out of respect for the memory of his parents, he scrupulously maintained the family pew at the Yellow Meeting House, Congregational, at Dracut Centre. He took no interest, however, in the doctrinal

discussions that were much in vogue in his day. The affairs of his own busy life occupied his mind. These affairs he managed with an efficiency and probity that commanded universal respect.

The simplicity of the religious faith which Theodore Parker held was illustrated by his perplexed feeling regarding his distinguished namesake, the Reverend Theodore Parker, whom he once met. The circumstance of the meeting has been recalled by the daughter. "I remember," says Mrs. Morrison, "when Theodore Parker lectured in Lowell. Attracted by the similarity of their names, my father went to hear him, and after the address introduced himself. The two men looked somewhat alike. They talked together for some time, and the Reverend Theodore offered to send my father some of his sermons. This he did, and they lay unopened for weeks. One rainy Sunday, however, I asked father if instead of going to church I might read the Parker sermons. He consented, and I got my first introduction to Unitarianism. I was delighted with the addresses. That evening I gave father one or two of the best of them with marked passages to read. He looked them over and then presently he said, as if it were strange

that such could be the case, 'Well, Mary, I believe he may be a good man, after all.'."

Acceptance of authority, in matters with which he had no time to become familiar, was habitual with this able, practical man. He was one of those who feel less responsibility for the conduct of the nation than for that of their own affairs.

Foresight was a characteristic that perhaps contributed as much to Theodore Parker's prosperity as did his physical tirelessness, and this quality, as will be seen, was one which he handed on to his son Moses. He was no casual or haphazard worker. The busy days on the Parker farm were so well planned in advance, and the hours made so effective, that the crops were always in the ground at the right time, the shed well filled with wood at the approach of winter, the harvested corn and potatoes sold in the most favorable market. Similarly, the blacksmith shops never lacked both regular and emergency tools.

In investing his savings, he showed the same kind of imaginative capacity that aided him in the ordering of his routine. He looked for stability and an assurance of advance in values. The thriving City of Lowell, founded by Kirk

Booth and his Boston associates, had grown up over night at the falls in the Merrimack four miles above the Parker homestead. Foreseeing this community's continuous growth, Theodore Parker became one of its earlier real estate owners.

Theodore Parker married twice. In 1830, he took as bride, Lydia, daughter of Eldad Carter, a prominent citizen of the Town of Wilmington. She died in 1832, leaving a son, Theodore Edson Parker, half brother of the subject of this biography, and father of Theodore Edson Parker, of Lowell. The second marriage was with Hannah, daughter of Deacon Moses Greeley, of Hudson, New Hampshire, who became the mother of Moses Greeley Parker and of Mary Greeley Parker (Mrs. Leonard H. Morrison).

The affection felt for Mrs. Parker by her stepson, and the consequent friendliness of the numerous Carter connection, had much to do, as will appear later, in securing for Moses Greeley Parker very desirable advantages during his medical apprenticeship.

The data concerning the ancestral lines, that converged upon his parents, greatly interested Dr. Parker in his middle and later life. He col-

lected them lovingly, not so much in the spirit of the scientist as of the born collector. From the facts accumulated in preparing the ancestral chart, material might later be drawn by some historian engaged in interpreting American developments in terms of race and family. To this larger undertaking the present work is only distantly germane. So vital, nevertheless, to a true understanding of history is a habit of looking for the persistence of hereditary traits, and so highly would Dr. Parker, himself, have approved its inclusion, that a somewhat detailed sketch of the ancestry of this family of old Dracut may be justified.

Chapter III.

EARLIER ANCESTRY.

The record of the Parker line, of which Moses Greeley Parker and his sister were born in the seventh generation, begins with Deacon Thomas Parker, who in 1635, being then about twenty-six years old, came to New England in the ship *Susan and Ellen.* He settled at Lynn, where he was made a freeman "the 19th of the 3rd. mo., 1637," and where he married Amy of unknown maiden name. Some time prior to 1650, Deacon Parker moved to that part of Reading which is now Wakefield, and there, in 1670, built a substantial house. The facts recoverable indicate that he was a substantial man who was willing to assume civic responsibility. He was selectman in 1661, 1665, 1666, 1667, and 1668. With Deacons Thomas Kendall and William Coudrey, he served on a commission "to try small cases," being, in other words, a local magistrate. He died August 12, 1683. His gravestone, in fair condition, may still be seen in the old burying ground near Lake Quannapowitt.

From Deacon Thomas Parker's eleven children has stemmed a host of honorable and effec-

tive men and women. An instinct for leadership and communal service seems to have been integrated in the strain.

The figures of the family's military service are impressive. The good deacon of Wakefield was represented in the Colonial Wars by at least twenty-seven descendants; at the Battle of Lexington by twenty-five who bore the name of Parker and three of other name; in the Revolution, by twenty-eight Parkers and eight others. Members of the family were equally conspicuous in civil life during the Colonial and subsequent periods.

Second in the direct line of descent with which this narrative is concerned, was Sergeant John Parker (1640-1699). He lived on Coudrey's Hill, Reading. His military title was won through service in King Philip's War. His marriage to Hannah Kendall, a daughter of his father's friend, Deacon Thomas Kendall, recalls a pretty story, one which explains the frequency with which the Christian name of "Kendall" is met in records of northeastern Massachusetts. Deacon Kendall, according to the legend was a grieved man, because, though the Lord had sent him ten fine daughters, he had no son to carry on his name. The girls, being dutiful and affec-

tionate, agreed among themselves that as each was wed and bore a man-child, he should be baptized as "Kendall."*

Third in the lineage under consideration was Captain Jonathan Parker, born on Coudrey's Hill, July 18, 1681, a prominent man of his town and time. He married Anna Flint, a daughter of Sergeant George Flint and great granddaughter of the Honorable Thomas Flint.

Captain Parker's purchase, in 1744, of a considerable property north of the Merrimack River in the towns of Methuen and Dracut, carried the Parker name into the region lying between the present cities of Lawrence and Lowell. Here the Reading man acquired several parcels of land which his son, Timothy, two years previously, had bought from John Higginson, Jr. The Captain seems to have gone to live on his new possessions, for on June 26, 1745, in a deed conveying one-half of his holdings to his son,

* The late Lillie Eaton wrote thus of Mrs. Thomas Kendall in his poem read at the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the town of Reading:

> "She had ten daughters, and each one
> When married, christened her first son
> Kendall; and thus we may infer
> Why 'tis these names so oft occur."

Kendall, he is styled as "gentleman, Methuen." He died April 6, 1746, and was buried in the Park Street Burying Ground, North Reading.

The zeal with which Dr. Moses Greeley Parker amassed the records of his Revolutionary ancestor, Kendall Parker, of the fourth generation from Deacon Thomas Parker, was rewarded by the collection of a considerable body of information.

Kendall Parker was born at Reading, April 12, 1723. At some time prior to June, 1745, he removed to his father's new properties, one-fifth of which he took over, and built for himself a house in Dracut within a few rods of the Methuen line. His land adjoined that of Major Samuel Varnum, who, in February, 1749, requested the Dracut selectmen to relocate a road from his house to the Methuen boundary "through Mr. Kendall Parker's land on the north side of his house and the south side of his barn to White Oak trees marked at Methuen line two rods wide." This is the earliest reference to Kendall Parker in Dracut records. Thereafter there were many, for he was a citizen of considerable distinction.

At the annual meeting of 1757, Kendall Parker was chosen "deer Refer." To this office

he was re-elected March 2, 1761. He was chosen field driver, March 7, 1763; tything man, March 3, 1766; constable, March 7, 1768; surveyor of highways, March 6, 1773.

During the Revolution, Kendall Parker, though already a man in middle life, acquired an honorable military record. His spirit was that of the town in which he lived, one exceptional even among Massachusetts communities in the readiness with which its sons volunteered their services. At the dedication, in 1904, of a tablet at Dracut Centre commemorating the town's Revolutionary heroes, Dr. Parker read a paper in which it was shown that out of a population of 1173, Dracut contributed 423 combatants. Among these ardent patriots, Kendall Parker did his part in both military and civilian capacities toward successful prosecution of the war. He was of those who responded *instanter* to the call to resist the British march upon Concord. The Dracut companies, from a distant township, arrived too late for the battle at Concord Bridge and even for the rear-guard action at Hardy's Hill, but they joined in the throng of pursuers that harried the red-coats all the way back to Cambridge. In this *mêlée* Kendall Parker fired shots. In the later years of the war

his function, as an older man, appears to have been that of encouraging enlistment. Even in Massachusetts, as every student of American history knows, popular enthusiasm for the Revolution waned after the Battle of Long Island. Dracut, like most other towns, took extraordinary measures to aid recruiting. Kendall Parker was one of those who advanced their own money to enable the town to meet its quota, as indicated by an entry on the town records of February 9, 1779, by which it was voted to "pay Kendall Parker Ten Pound money per money he paid to hire men into the service in the year 1773."*

Peter Parker, second son of Kendall Parker and grandfather of Moses Greeley Parker, was twenty-one years old at the outbreak of the Revolution. His military service, as was appro-

* Kendall Parker's war record as given in "Soldiers and Sailors of the War of the Revolution," was as follows: "Private, Capt. Stephen Russell's Co. of militia in Col. Green's Regt. which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service two days; also Corporal, Capt. Joshua Reed's Co., Col. Varnum's Regt.; enlisted Dec. 13, 1775 (service not given); also Private, Capt. Joseph Bradley Varnum's Co., Col. Simeon Spaulding's Regt.; abstract of equipment for train band and alarm list endorsed 1777; reported as belonging to alarm list; also returns, etc. of 2nd Dracut Co.; list of persons who paid money to hire men to serve 3 mos. in the Continental Army, agreeable to resolves passed in April, 1778; said Parker, with others, hired Ebenezer Sawyer, and is reported as having paid £10 toward his hire."

priate to his years, was more extended than his father's.*

After his war years, Peter Parker lived an uneventful life. On February 25, 1778, he bought from his father for £26, s.13. 4d, "a certain tract of land lying in Dracutt and also part of the homestead farm containing by estimate fourty acres."

Peter Parker's marriage to Bridget Coburn brought the Parkers of East Dracut into blood relationship with the two oldest families of the town, the Coburns and Varnums. Dracut owed its settlement to Corporal Edward Colborne (later Coburn) and Sergeant Samuel Varnum, of Ipswich both, who in 1771 bought land from a large grant owned and named "Draycott" by John Evered, alias John Webb, trader, of Boston. Varnum was the first to come to the neighborhood, settling temporarily, however, on the south side of the river and cultivating his fields

* The following data regarding Peter Parker were furnished to Dr. Moses Greeley Parker, November 4, 1904, by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions; "Dates of enlistment, 1776, 12 mos. private Capt. James Varnum, Col. James M. Varnum, 1778, 3 mos. private Capt. Asa Lawrence, Col. Poor. Engaged at White Plains. Date of application widow, Dec. 7, 1841, then aged 85 yrs. He married Bridget (also spelled Brigget) Coburn on Thanksgiving Day, 1785, at Pelham, Mass. (*sic*) and died at Dracut, Mass. She was pensioned as his widow."

by crossing in a boat. Coburn followed soon after and was, apparently, the first permanent settler of Dracut. From his eight sons and from the three surviving sons of Samuel Varnum sprang a numerous progeny whose records are chronicled in the respective family genealogies. Dr. Moses Greeley Parker came from Ezra Coburn (1658-1739), who on November 22, 1681, married Hannah Varnum, daughter of Samuel Varnum. This branch of the Coburn family were owners of property down to recent times in the New Boston district of Dracut, close to the Pelham, New Hampshire, boundary. The line of descent to Bridget (Coburn) Parker was through John Coburn (1690-1756) and Ensign Joshua Coburn (1728-). The marriage of the former was to Sarah Richardson Addams, a widow of Chemsford, and of the latter to Hannah Richardson, of Dracut, bringing Dr. Parker and his sister into the extensive list of descendants of Ezekiel Richardson (1602-1647).

Moses Greeley Parker's boyhood connection with his Coburn relatives was slight, though there were occasional drives and sleighrides to visit cousins at New Boston.

More often, however, the journey, which was an event in the lives of the sister and brother,

extended by way of Pelham Centre over the roughest of back roads into the northern part of the Town of Hudson, close to the Litchfield and Londonderry lines.

Here, in a hospitable home on one of the largest farms of Southern New Hampshire, the children were welcomed by their Grandfather and Grandmother Greeley. Through life they carried the recollection of a friendly and dignified old man of whom they stood somewhat in awe, though they appreciated the silver dollar with which he endowed each of them, and of a loving grandmother, and endless opportunities for romping and exploring.

Everything about the farm owned and operated by Deacon Moses Greeley expressed comfort and prosperity. It was a large estate, as New England properties go; one could travel over the back road for a mile or more and still be on Greeley land. Much of the land was in wood; the cultivated parts were well tilled. The deacon was no one-man farmer. He was a clever employer of others, whose affection and respect he commanded. On the place, housed in neat cottages, were the families of several farm laborers, and in times of heavy work outsiders were hired to come in by the day. Moses Greeley

was a kindly man, withal, to whom employees and neighbors often brought their troubles for his counsel and help; and a most religious man who contributed liberally to the support of the Baptist Church, situated in his part of the town.

Several of Deacon Greeley's near relatives were foremost citizens of Hudson. The name was, and is, locally honored. It is not strange that Theodore Parker's younger children grew up to be proud of their Greeley connection. Their lifelong stressing of the middle name that was given to each was significant.

The genealogy of the Greeley, or Greele, family is given *in extenso* in the family history, a copy of which, filled with supplementary newspaper cuttings, was in Dr. Parker's library. The several American branches owe their origin to Andrew Greeley, who was born in England about 1619, who married Mary Moyse and settled, at an early date, in the Massachusetts Town of Salisbury. He was a leading man of his community who built on Kane's river a mill for grinding corn.

A son, Joseph Greeley, ancestor of the Greeleys of Hudson, was born at Salisbury on February 5, 1652. He married Martha Wilford (1669-1757). He is recorded as of Haverhill in

1677. This town in 1694 offered four acres of desirable land to whoever would erect and operate a mill. The tender was accepted by Joseph Greeley and Joseph Peasley, whose money gave out before they had completed the undertaking. Late in life this Greeley moved to Hudson, where he died March 7, 1745. In the same town lived his son, Benjamin, born February 28, 1730, and his wife, Ruth Whittier, granddaughter of Thomas Whittier, ancestor of the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier. Sergeant Joseph Greeley of the next generation, saw honorable service in the Revolution. He married Prudence Clement of Haverhill. Their son, Moses Greeley, the first twelve years of whose life were passed under King George III, was the grandfather with whose firm but not unkindly features Dr. Parker was familiar in boyhood.

Deacon Greeley's marriage to Mary Derby (1775-1856) introduced a strain that came down from John Derby, of Marblehead. This ancestor of some of the first citizens of Salem and the vicinity was a fisherman and, during a brief but famous episode, a pirate, being one of those who escaped hanging for participation in the terrorizing escapade of the celebrated Tom Pound, during Governor Edmund Andros' regime. Ex-

cept for this lapse, nothing discreditable has come down concerning John Derby, and his children were evidently brought up to respectable ways. Through John Derby, Jr., and his son, also John Derby, the line comes down to Thomas Derby, a Revolutionary hero, born January 17, 1731, who married Lucy Brewer, of Framingham. Of the heroism of his great grandmother, who sheared the sheep and made the uniform for her husband, and who kept the family together after his death from wounds received at White Plains, Dr. Parker was especially and justly proud.

Chapter IV.

BOYHOOD.

Moses Greeley Parker was born on October 12, 1842. From the first he gave promise of growing up to be a healthy normal man. Just how he was likely to develop might have been predicted before he was ten years old. His natural talents asserted themselves quickly. Thanks to the retentive memory of his sister, it has been possible to recover several revelatory anecdotes, indicating a young boy who, beyond the generality of children, showed evidences of scientific curiosity and mechanical ingenuity. Such recollections are always valuable as biographical data, even though they may not seem to demand special stressing.

From infancy onward, Moses Parker was a troublesome child, if not intensively occupied. He had a restless, investigating temperament. When busy, however, with a mechanism or contrivance which he had made his own, he became thoroughly happy and forgetful of his surroundings. He must either be amused by others or given wherewithal to amuse himself. He was not gregarious by nature and he shrank from

Moses Greeley Parker
At the Age of Six

contact with rough children. Yet he was never shy or retiring, having always a native readiness to seek or impart information. He was quick from his first years to learn from his father's guests upon whom he invariably made a favorable impression.

The first of a rather lengthy series of accidents which threatened the future physician's young life, greatly affected his subsequent physical and mental development, his choice of an occupation and the conditions under which he pursued his profession. His weak eyesight, which apparently was not inherited, was due to the consequences of an early and ill-conceived scientific investigation.

While scarcely more than a baby, Moses Parker used to play on the brick flooring before an open fireplace in the dining room, and there, one day, without the knowledge of his mother, who was busy nearby, he possessed himself of a partly filled powder horn and undertook to make some little explosions, as he had seen older boys do. The inevitable happened. A train of fire ran into the powder horn. A blinding flash brought the alarmed mother to the room, there to find the little fellow writhing in agony. His eyesight, which at first it was feared had gone

forever, was restored by careful treatment. For many years, however, the boy could not stand the glare of a strong light. Concentrated study was difficult, and work in the fields, such as was expected of boys on a farm, was virtually impossible.

Two other accidents that were serious, and a number of minor ones, clung in the sister's memory.

Theodore Parker kept bees, and one day while the boy was playing in the dooryard, he thrust a stick into one of the hives. Instantly a cloud of enraged bees surrounded the child and stung him cruelly about the face and hands. This catastrophe befell him not many years after the explosion of the powder horn, and it was again feared that he might be blind for life. His eyes, however, and possibly his life, were saved by prompt measures of relief.

Some time later, when Moses Parker was ten or eleven years old, he was nearly kicked to death under a fallen horse. Always a careless driver, though he liked and understood horses, he was one day holding the reins in a buggy while driving his sister to Lowell. On Methuen street, within the limits of the present suburb of Centralville, the horse suddenly fell at a slippery

point in the highway and, through the stopping of the vehicle, the young driver was thrown over the dashboard. There he lay at the mercy of the heels of the struggling horse. Almost instantly, however, a man vaulted over the fence of an adjacent yard and threw himself upon the animal's head, meantime giving the sister instructions for releasing her brother from his predicament.

Except for these escapes, which can be paralleled in the stories of most active boys, Moses Parker passed through a comparatively uneventful childhood and youth. While the work of his father's blacksmith shop interested him, he was not believed to be robust enough to learn the trade. He had, nevertheless, a disposition that made him, in the words of a popular book of that day, "want to see the wheels go round." On a brook that crossed the farm he constructed a series of dams and water wheels that evoked the admiration of other youths of the neighborhood. His sister recalls the skill and taste with which he put together a fernery and set it up in the parlor. He was not an omnivorous reader, but, as soon as his eyesight began to permit reading, he made his selection among books on natural science and physiology. Before he was

twelve years old it was recognized that his bent was distinctly scientific.

Moses Greeley Parker's schooling was of a sort to inculcate a respect for both scientific and literary studies which he always showed. The schoolhouse, which the Parker children attended, was situated about a mile up the road, in the present Kenwood district of Dracut, and had exceptionally able teachers as rural teachers go.

For many years the school was taught by George W. Coburn. Mr. Coburn was the scholarly man of Dracut, well educated, a leader in town affairs, its representative in the legislature and elsewhere, and, as a teacher, one with a marked gift for interesting responsive pupils in subjects outside the routine of the three "R's." Dr. Parker profited by his instruction for five years.

At the district school, Moses Parker was confirmed in the love of knowledge for its own sake, which was a marked characteristic of his later years. The fact may be stated without argument as to the value of miscellaneous and often unassorted information. It became at least typical of Dr. Parker to prize acquirement of facts. In the last year of his life, while showing his collections of newspaper clippings and other

data to a visitor, he said: "From a boy I have always been interested in carrying as much as possible of all this in my head. If I only could go on through eternity, knowing more and more!" This aptitude for absorbing information made the boy, Moses, popular with his first teacher, whose own personal limitation seems to have been that of trying to know too much on too many subjects. There is a note of confident belief in the capacity of this particular youth in the following formal letter of recommendation "to whom it may concern," found among Dr. Parker's papers: "The subscriber, having been intimately acquainted with Moses G. Parker from his infancy hereby certifies that he is a young man of excellent moral character and superior natural attainments." This was signed by Mr. Coburn as chairman of the board of selectmen on April 20, 1858, and was used by Moses Parker in applying for a position to teach.

Chapter V.

STUDENT DAYS.

Education beyond that of the district school was urged as requisite for Moses Greeley Parker by his mother, who was already abetting him in an ambition to study medicine. His entering the high school at Lowell was considered. This school, however, had not then attained its historic reputation of being one of the best college preparatory institutions in New England. After many inquiries it was decided, in the summer of 1857, to send the boy to the Howe School, Billerica. This academy was then a new school in its neighborhood, having been founded under the will of Dr. Zadoc Howe, who died March 8, 1851, leaving the town some thirty thousand dollars to equip and maintain a school "for instruction in the higher branches of English education and such other studies as are required of young men preparatory to entering college." The bequest was promptly carried out and gave Billerica an institution which has done an admirable work.

Of this academy, Dr. Parker retained pleasantest memories. In middle life he wrote the

history of its foundation and first years, and he regularly attended gatherings of its alumni. He was for many years one of its trustees and was actively identified with its management.

At Billerica, as heretofore in Dracut, Moses Parker made especially good marks in mathematics, for which he had natural aptitude. When, indeed, a year later, he entered Phillips Academy, Andover, he was found to have made such progress in algebra and geometry that he was excused from class-room work in these subjects.

The year spent at Andover was a decisive one. It settled the question whether or not Moses Greeley Parker should become a physician.

It was still customary, just prior to the Civil War, for prospective physicians to begin their studies in the office of an established practitioner and to finish their professional studies at one of the medical schools, usually, in the case of Middlesex County boys, at Harvard, Dartmouth or the Pittsfield Institute.

It happened that one of the family connections gave the young man an exceptional opportunity to make his start. Dr. Jonathan Brown of Tewksbury, a relative of Theodore Parker's first wife, who gladly welcomed young Parker

to his office, had a practice which in that neighborhood, and at that time, was unique in character. It was one which not only gave unusual chances for observation of many maladies, but it was of a sort to inspire in a naturally sympathetic student, a life-long interest in the problems of charity and social service. In 1854, Dr. Brown, who already had a practice in the locality, had been appointed resident physician of the State Almshouse, then newly established at Tewksbury Centre, and for twelve years thereafter he was in sole charge of its hospital department, with such help as was rendered by his office assistants. He was a man of philanthropic nature, a hard worker and a good organizer.

Association with this noble and self-sacrificing physician left its impress upon Moses Parker's nature. It taught him to give freely of his time and strength, as for years he did, to aid human suffering, whether with or without expectation of financial reward. Observation among the multitudinous diseases and physical defects of an institution, that was filled with the derelicts of humanity, laid the foundations for a skill in diagnosis which became one of Dr. Parker's chief professional assets.

Dr. Brown's heroic war service proved his

undoing. The story of the causes of his untimely death is told in staccato in the following deposition which Dr. Parker signed in 1881: "I knew him intimately. The last years of his life I was his assistant physician at Tewksbury Almshouse, Tewksbury, Mass. I saw him professionally many times after his return from the war. He was a well and remarkably able man previous to going to the war. He was one of the twenty volunteer physicians asked for by the Surgeon-General—was off twenty-four hours after the notice was received—told me he became exhausted caring for the soldiers sent to him during the seven days' fight before Richmond. He came home in June, 1865, with malarial fever—was ill for months the following winter—became very yellow, etc. Continued to fail, until died, Aug. 20, 1867."

Three terms of teaching in district schools, undertaken while he was still pursuing his medical studies, gave Moses Greeley Parker an experience which he later valued highly. He often said that he wished he had taught longer. One of the schools which he had was at Hudson, New Hampshire, where his grandparents lived; the other in the adjacent town of Pelham. Both were, of course, within easy driving distance

from the home in Dracut, to which the youth usually returned for Sunday. From various accounts he appears to have been a good teacher, patient and painstaking, and to have undertaken of his own initiative, what in these days would be called an enriched curriculum. His liking for scientific studies made him especially eager to give the children an inkling of the wonders of the world of common things. He later referred to the joy with which he gave lessons in chemistry and physiology.

The salary from teaching such schools was, of course, small, but it helped to give the young man a feeling that he was not entirely dependent upon his father.

Among Dr. Parker's records was a school report of the town of Pelham for the year ending March 11, 1862, in which the following paragraphs were of personal significance:

DISTRICT No. 5

Teacher, Mr. Moses G. Parker, of Dracut. Length of term, 13 weeks. No. of children, 25—6 over 16 years of age. Average attendance, 20¼; 13 pupils are reported as not whispering during the term, or during the time they attended the school. Algebra, physiology, philosophy, science of things familiar and composition the extra branches pursued.

Too much cannot be said in commendation of the success of this school, and the progress made during the term. The

teacher being well qualified by literary attainments, energy, quickness, decision and an apparent taste for, and love of, his vocation, entered upon his duties with zeal and earnestness and succeeded in enlisting the feeling of his pupils with his own that everything should be accomplished which could be, during the term.

The exercises at the closing examination were of a very high order. Some of them were worthy of particular notice. A class in physiology seemed to have a very thorough knowledge of that science. A class in philosophy were noticed as answering questions and explaining problems very readily.

Exercises in arithmetic, both mental and written, appeared almost faultless. Examples upon the blackboard were performed very quickly and explained very understandingly. Some very neat specimens of writing books were exhibited, showing a good degree of improvement.

LUTHER C. RICHARDSON, *Superintendent,*
School Committee of the
Town of Pelham.

Pelham, N. H., March 18, 1862.

When not engaged in teaching, his pedagogical service covering but one term a year, Moses Greeley Parker lived at Dr. Brown's house in Tewksbury Centre, a pleasant village, and spent most of his waking hours among the patients at the Almshouse. His kinsman saw that he had unusual capacity and urged him to persist.

By Dr. Brown's advice young Parker determined to attend a medical school. The institution selected was the Long Island College Hos-

pital, whither he went in 1863 with a note of introduction to one of the instructors, John C. Dalton, M. D., from Dr. Elisha Huntington, then the foremost medical man in Lowell. Dr. Dalton, to whom this note was addressed, was a son of Dr. John C. Dalton, for many years an honored practitioner at Chelmsford, and after 1859 senior physician at the newly established Boston City Hospital.

Of the medical student's experiences in New York no record is available among his letters and diaries. He always in after years spoke highly of the instruction at the Long Island School, and on one occasion described the curriculum in an address before a gathering of Lowell physicians.

The agreeable ending of the student days at Brooklyn (he remained there but one year) is recalled conversationally by his sister, who said to the present biographer: "While Dr. Parker was finishing his studies at Brooklyn, I went on to see him. With my brother I attended the graduating exercises of the medical school. Dr. Flint gave the young men an address which fairly brought tears to my eyes—telling them of the sick bed scenes they would witness and of the sacredness of the physician's calling. He urged them to remember that they would be en-

trusted with secrets such as no minister or lawyer is ever possessed of and that they must honor their profession by keeping those secrets. I know that Dr. Parker was profoundly moved by this address and that all through his career he was most careful never to tell thoughtlessly anything about the circumstances of any of his patients."

In the autumn of 1863, Moses Greeley Parker, now well advanced in his medical studies, entered the Harvard Medical School. Here for a single school year, amidst the disturbed conditions of wartime, he followed the studies of the graduating class, coming under the influence of a strong faculty which included such men as Humphreys Storer, dean and professor of medical jurisprudence; John B. S. Jackson, pathalogical anatomist; Henry I. Bowditch, professor of clinical medicine; Oliver Wendell Holmes, professor of anatomy and surgery; Henry J. Bigelow, surgeon, and others. Dr. Parker, in after years, always expressed appreciation of the sound training given at Harvard, though he appeared not to be altogether sympathetic with some of the later developments of the school. Among his classmates were several who afterwards achieved professional reputation, among

them, Dr. Henry O. Marcy, long a distinguished practitioner at Cambridge; Dr. Benjamin F. D. Adams, prominent in upbuilding the Waltham Hospital; Dr. Samuel H. Durgin, nationally conspicuous through his long service as chairman of the Boston Board of Health; Dr. Samuel Wood Langmaid, laryngologist; Dr. George Frederick Winslow, for forty years a surgeon and inspector general in the United States Navy.

Moses Greeley Parker
At Graduation

Chapter VI.

MILITARY SERVICE.

The Union army's need of physicians and surgeons was so great in the last years of the war that the class of 1864 was hurried from Harvard to the front. The seriousness of the military situation was in everybody's thought. The graduation exercises were held in March. Thereafter, with Dr. Parker, the problem was that of offering his services as advantageously and as quickly as possible. While he was not of a militant nature, or yet one of intense political convictions, he came of a family and community intolerant of slackers and patriotic of impulse. He gladly applied for a letter of recommendation to the genial author of "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," whose anatomy lectures he had lately enjoyed. There was no delay in procedure. Dr. Holmes at once complied with the request, and wrote a personal letter of indorsement of the young student's character and ability.

Dr. Moses Greeley Parker's service in the Civil War was notable and honorable. It brought him opportunity to take responsibili-

ties that were heavy for a youth who had just passed his majority and on whose medical diploma the ink was hardly dry. He witnessed some of the most exciting scenes of the last act of the war. He took part in cavalry service on the lower James. He heard from a distance the firing at Cold Harbor. He was personally present at the assault on Petersburg, which he surveyed from a trench close under the Confederate guns. He rode into Richmond shortly after the evacuation, and he twice met President Lincoln in Virginia. He was a keenly interested spectator during many exciting incidents, and he all the while faithfully and intelligently discharged the arduous duties of his profession in the months during which the Union armies suffered severest casualties. His promotion to an important executive position at the Point of Rocks Base Hospital came about in a natural way because his ability had been recognized by his superiors. The War of the Rebellion was fought and officered largely by boys of whose surprising capacities and qualities the young surgeon from Massachusets gave an example.

The Dracut youth's experiences in Virginia were related with much explicitness in letters to his parents and sister which have been pre-

served. These communications make up a record of considerable biographical and historical value; one that should, perhaps, be kept together in the archives of some historical society. They tell their story with a circumstantialness and independence of observation which make them documents such as any historian would prize. In a broad sense they are part of the literature of the Civil War.

Presenting his letter of recommendation from Dr. Holmes to the proper authority, Dr. Parker was instructed to take the army and navy medical examinations, which he passed successfully. Surgeon General Dale assigned him at once to the 57th Massachusetts Regiment, then in camp near Worcester. Here the new-made physician was waiting for a uniform when it chanced that General Butler telegraphed to Dr. Gilman Kimball, a prominent medical man at Lowell, to send him three competent surgeons immediately. This request determined the form of Dr. Parker's war service. Dr. Gilman communicated forthwith with his fellow-townsman at Worcester, asking him to proceed to Fortress Monroe, as one of the selected trio.

Dr. Parker arrived at the Virginia fortress on April 9, 1864. The journey southward was an

interesting one. One of the first of the letters to the homefolk shows that the young men were unable to secure transportation at Boston and that, in their eagerness to go forward, without delay, they decided to pay their own fare, trusting to be reimbursed later. They ran through New York without pausing, and spent a night at Philadelphia, where they witnessed a performance of "The Octaroon," then playing at the Chestnut Street Theatre. They arrived at one o'clock next day in Baltimore, where Dr. Parker had a chance to call on some kinsfolk before taking the five o'clock boat down the Chesapeake. He reported next morning to the commanding general who, after inquiries concerning his father and mother, appointed him assistant surgeon of the second U. S. Cavalry, which was stationed at Portsmouth under command of Colonel George W. Cole.

It was one of General Butler's colored regiments to which Dr. Parker was thus attached, his service beginning the day after his arrival at Fortress Monroe. The associations into which he was thrown seem not to have been altogether agreeable at first to one who never had had much liking for rough, undeveloped people. In an early letter he wrote: "I cannot say I like the

colored troops to deal with as well as I would white ones. Yet we don't have half the sickness among them that there is among the whites." He later came to appreciate the soldierly qualities of the black man. His eventual relief, however, from the service of this regiment seems to have been welcomed.

For the cavalry, Dr. Parker had a country boy's aptitude. He was accustomed to animals and liked them. While he was at the front, expecting the sword and belt that were accompanying the commission ordered for him by General Butler, General Cole selected a good horse and bade him practice riding it. This was an agreeable introduction to the service. In his first long letter from the front he wrote: "I like the cavalry best. There is a little more risk, but more excitement in it; one's health is better and with a good horse we are quite safe if we can ride well. If my health is good I shall like this work."

In his first days of service the new surgeon was assigned a servant, a colored boy of fifteen years, in whose welfare he expressed great interest, and for whose use he requested from home a large box of his outgrown clothes.

What the life at Camp Hamilton was like, and how it made opportunities for the assistant sur-

geon, when off duty, to gratify the instincts of a born collector, is revealed in a letter to his sister the latter part of April. This penchant for picking up curiosities was basic in Dr. Parker's character, and was undoubtedly an inheritance for, as we have seen, his father was of similar disposition. In later years, as we shall see, he filled the house in First Street almost to overflowing with coins and medals, stamps and souvenirs, minerals, engravings and newspaper clippings. From earliest boyhood until the end of his life he loved to collect and arrange, partly, no doubt, for the joy of the accumulating, partly, because he thus increased the store of general information which he prided himself upon carrying with him. The letter follows:

Camp Hamilton,
near Fort Munroe,
April 24th, 1864.

Dear Sister:

I now have some time, having got through my day's work. The sick call comes at 7 o'clock. This brings it before breakfast. I get through in about 1½ hours when I go to breakfast at Mr. Spaulding's. Our colonel, wife and two children take their meals at Mr. Spaulding's. Martin's brother John and Mary Lee are coming out to see us. I have said us, but I should have said Martin. They start Wednesday next.

We are having quite warm weather now—as warm as June at home. The apple trees are in bloom. The peaches

are losing their flowers. Violets and wild flowers are quite thick. The violets are very large and beautiful. The flowers, as a general thing, are much larger here than at the north. The country is very level, no high hills and but few small elevations. The soil is fine, claylike, sticky. We get nice sea breezes, but the country as a general thing is low and swampy, not as good fighting ground as it is in Pennsylvania. Still, if the woods were cleared and well drained it would be a delightful country.

We are at the fort which is on Old Point Comfort. The view is fine down the bay, it being now well dotted with transports and sailing vessels. There is to be a heavy force on the peninsula within a few days. It is, in fact, quite large now. They are gathering rapidly at Yorktown. Burnside's troops, I understand, are landing at Newport News. If this is true we shall probably all go up the peninsula together, and that quite soon. We expect to move in a few days—where we know not yet. I am in hopes we remain here till we get well fitted for the movement, but our colonel is anxious to be at the front. As he has had that position for some time it is doubtful whether he gets it again at present. I think that there is to be one desperate effort to take Richmond and free Virginia of the rebel forces. If they succeed it will be a glorious thing. The place is well fortified and many thousands of lives will be lost before the thing is accomplished. We shall do our part if sent in that direction. Mr Spaulding thinks it would be an awful humbling of the rebels to have the black troops charge first into this, the goal of our hope.

In later reminiscences of his first days of service, passed on the edge of Dismal Swamp between Norfolk and Suffolk, Dr. Parker told how, the first night out, he slept for the first

time in his life in a hammock with overcoat and boots on.

It rained hard (he wrote), and in the morning there were from two to three inches of water all over the swamp, making it impossible to remain there longer. Colonel Cole ordered the regiment out upon higher land, even at the risk of bringing on an engagement, which it did; and the fight at Bunch of Walnuts and the raid into Suffolk followed. Then back to Fortress Monroe for a review and march up the peninsula, stopping long enough to see the old Revolutionary fortifications and those of recent date.

Specific incidents of this procedure from Suffolk up the James River are described in the young surgeon's letters.

Writing from Fortress Monroe on April 22d he informed his parents:

We were called from the fort on Wednesday last and ordered to go into camp at the Fortress. There is a large organization of colored troops here. General Wild's brigade, which is colored, is gathering into this neighborhood and the general has his headquarters about a mile away. I, for one, was glad to come back to the fort. That guerilla fighting is the most unpleasant of all fighting. I would much prefer regular campaigning. Though not in the service long, I have been at the front and seen the mounts. It is dangerous work.

The conditions under which Dr. Parker had entered the service were now explained:

About my commission. Butler assigned me to this regiment as soon as I got here. I did not tell him at that time what I wanted, as he knows me. He shook hands with me when he first saw me and inquired all about Lowell people,

my father first of all. I was pleased with the way he received me and thought best to do what he wished without asking favors at first. He sent my commission to me last week and I shall be mustered in today, but draw pay from the 10th of April. I know it might have been better to have a contract, that is, if any of you should be sick at home; but I trust in God for both yours and my protection, and should you be sick at home and desire my presence I have no doubt that you could bring influence enough to have the general grant me leave of absence; and if I am sick I have no doubt he will let me go home. That is all the risk I run. The advantages are more. I am in the way of promotion, and in contract I should not be. I have a position given by my commission that contracts do not give me; and thirdly it would look cowardly to try to get out at the present time unless I have a good reason. What I have done I have thought long about and have asked the advice of some friends here. If my life and health are spared I shall do well and I think Butler will do well by me, by and by.

A month later Dr. Parker wrote home that the period of lingering on the shores of the Chesapeake was over; that his regiment, with many others, had been ordered up the James River to Bermuda Hundreds. In the meantime he had had various experiences, including that of being under fire in an expedition sent up the peninsula to find the enemy. This incident was described in a Memorial Day address at Dracut in 1914.

The two colored regiments were drawn up in line of battle to charge, nearly a mile over a level plain, a fort on

the opposite side of the river (the Chickahominy). Capt. Dollard had dismounted his company of colored cavalry, forded the river higher up, and at a given signal from him the charge was to be made. Meanwhile, the Colonel, some officers and orderlies were grouped on a small knoll to witness the advance. Soon I heard a zip-zip-zip and said: "They are firing at us." The colonel laughed, saying, "You are young and have not been under fire much." I did not have to reply as our orderly then fell from his horse, wounded. I had him carried to the safe side of the knoll, where the ambulance was, and I noticed that the Colonel and all followed "to see me dress the wound"—and thereafter watched the movement from this comparatively safe place.

Soon the signal was heard, and the charge was bravely made up to the very edge of the river. The Confederates, feeling safe in their fort, knowing that the cavalry could not cross the river, mounted their ramparts swinging their hats and shouting, "Come on, you black devils, you sons of ——, come on. We will give you all you want." So intent were they in jeering that they did not notice Capt. Dollard entering the rear of the fort, then unguarded; and with a cry of "Remember Fort Pillow," the tables were turned. The work was short, not one was left to tell the tale. Only four colored men were killed, and three wounded.

On the eve of departure up the river, Dr. Parker wrote thus:

Fortress Monroe,
May 24th, 1864.
At Mr. Spaulding's House

Dear Parents and Sister:

I promised in my last to give some description of the way we live; but I find I have got to postpone these descriptions

till my next for want of time. We are ordered from Williamsburg to join the regiments at Bermuda Hundreds. Butler is drawing all his forces up to this place, every man he can call upon, even getting some from Newbern, N. C.

We were quite willing to leave Williamsburg on many accounts. The guerillas were too thick outside the lines for the comfort of our men or the sound sleep of the officers at night inside the lines. We had, many a night, to jump up in a hurry, thinking from the alarm they were upon us. But God in his mercy and kindness has preserved us thus far, and I have still stronger faith in Him than ever before. I know He can preserve us and carry us through the most dangerous places, and I have faith that He will watch over and protect us as we go forth.

They had a hot time up at Butler's position, Bermuda Hundreds, last Tuesday, one week ago. We were repulsed and driven in behind our fortifications, and here we are yet. There is talk of dismounting our men and putting them to work on the fortifications. I don't know whether they will, yet.

Our surgeon, W. M. Manley, was wounded last Monday week, and went home. He was hit in the thigh by a piece of shell and received a bad, but not dangerous flesh wound. It makes a great deal of responsibility fall on me—in fact all the responsibility of the sick and wounded of the regiment. I am now acting as full surgeon of the regiment, and this is not little responsibility for me. I shall do my best, trusting in God. I had a large number of sick at Williamsburg. It was a very unhealthy place, a half covered graveyard. I was nearly sick myself there, but am better now. In riding about to see my sick men I would often have my horse stumble, by the ground giving way and letting his feet into some grave of dead horses. Though it was an unhealthy place, Williamsburg has a great many points of interest: The colleges that are now in ruins; the

church Washington was married in; the place where Patrick Henry made his famous speech ('England her Cromwell, France her Bonaparte' [*sic*] etc.) At this place I learned a great deal respecting the customs of southern ladies and their society. I gathered some relics here which I send to Lowell in father's name by express. The books will speak for themselves. One of them is over 200 years old, very valuable. In short, all are valuable and you must preserve them for me. I shall think a great deal of them if God spares my life to read them. The shells I gathered from about the ground where the fortifications were thrown up. There are some of the oldest shells geology speaks of. They are older than the ground —were deposited when the peninsula was a sea bottom. Take them out carefully and preserve them. Don't give these things away or let people steal them. I send also a Secesh belt marked C. S. This I took from the battlefield at Joe's ford on the Chickahominy, twenty miles south of Richmond. I got a saber, but have to leave it at Mrs. Spaulding's for the present. I picked these up and put them into my ambulance. I threw two saddles and blankets and rebels' things into the river. They would have got them, as we were unable to carry them off, if I had not done it. Here is where you see things destroyed that cannot be carried away. It looks hard, but we get used to these things. Keep this belt as a most valuable trophy. Not having time to write more I must close. With love to all, I remain, your son and brother,

M. G. Parker,
Asst. Surg., 2nd U. S. C. S.

The story of the campaign on the James and about Petersburg of which the physician from Massachusetts was destined to witness many

spectacular incidents is a familiar part of the general history of the war.

Upon his return with the colored cavalry to Fortress Monroe, Dr. Parker immediately prepared for the journey up the river. The force arrived at Wilson's landing while it was under attack. Mattresses were piled around the pilot house and all were ordered to lie down flat on the decks. Thus the firing line was passed without loss and the fort was reinforced. Gunboats followed and soon drove the enemy from their positions. The colored troops re-embarked the next day and landed at the peninsula known as Bermuda Hundreds, on the south side of the James River at the confluence of the Appomatox becoming a part of the Eighteenth Army Corps under General Butler. This transference took place at the critical moment of the war, when Grant was forcing Lee back upon Richmond in the long drive that ended in the sanguinary battle of Cold Harbor.

Some inkling of the sights and sounds on the river during these critical days was conveyed by Dr. Parker in a letter of May 31st in which, acknowledging the receipt of two communications from home, he wrote that he had just

. . . found time to read them while the cannon roared on

all sides and the air rained lead and iron. We have had constant cannonading on our left, and on our right Grant has been roaring away since yesterday noon. This was the first time we have been able to hear Grant's guns here at Bermuda Hundreds, but while in Williamsburg I could hear Grant's guns away in the distance and Butler's somewhat nearer. Now I hear Grant's guns about fifteen miles off and ours crash away on all sides. We hear the shells go bellowing over our heads, the heavy roar of cannon all around, the awful reports from some of the hundred pound Parrots and the terrible sounds from the gun boats. Our regiment—or only part of it—has been engaged today and this company did glorious work—captured, by charging, a twelve-pound battery from the rebels. The attack commenced here yesterday about four o'clock. The heaviest firing and most desperate fighting has been done on the opposite side of the Appomatox River. We are on the left bank under a hill. The fighting has been on the right bank. The rebels are trying to take our forts over there, but it will be hard work for them to do it. The shells have been thrown over our heads and all our horses from our battery on the hill above us all day. This battery has had the fighting all its own way, not having a shell thrown at it. I had a fine position this forenoon to see this terrible work. I can no longer think of a battle as fun. There is no fun in it, Mary. I looked as long as I had heart to stand it. My head and heart ached to see the men fall under the terrible missles sent into the rebel ranks. Even if they are rebels, it is no pleasant sight. We have lost very few men, but the rebels have lost many. It is their chance now to attack us in the breast works. They may break our lines, but I doubt it much.

About eleven o'clock an assistant surgeon came off the gunboat to get assistance. A man had a crushed foot and it must be amputated. I went with him and our acting

assistant surgeon accompanied me. We went on board and the boat steamed upstream and commenced firing, as though she felt safe to pelt away at them when having three surgeons on board. We took our man into the captain's room and laid him on the dining table and here, in this position, amputated his foot at the ankle joint. This we did under a heavy fire. Our guns bellowed away, shaking our boat at every discharge, but, we trust, shaking the rebel battery as much. The rebels had so much to do at this time that we got no shells from them.

That this experience on the gunboat came outside of strict performance of the surgeon's duties he later admitted when he wrote of the operation:

The poor fellow had his foot crushed so badly that we had to perform Perigoff's operation, *i. e.*, cut off the foot and turn up the heel, making a round heel stump to walk on. This answered so well that the naval medical officer was promoted for the work, while I, being away from my command without orders, might have been cashiered had any of my men been wounded.

The surgeon of the colored cavalry at Bermuda Hundred was one of those who on the fourth of June, 1864, listened to the roar and sudden silence of the guns to the northward, and who wondered what was happening in Grant's campaign. It was the day of the repulse at Cold Harbor which, but for the Union general's bold strategy in crossing to the south side of the James, must have brought his long drive to

a deadlock. The following is the budget of news of this date which went forward to the Parkers at Dracut:

Bermuda Hundred, Va.
Line of Fortifications,
June 4th, 1864.

My dear Sister:

I was gladdened last Wednesday by the reception of three letters, two from you and one from Warren.

We are still in the same position as then, our men being dismounted and doing duty in the trenches, the horses being moved back one mile to the rear, and all the sick are sent back there. I have my headquarters in a tent under a pear tree. I have a tent by myself and about ten rods from here are seven old maids, Secesh to the core, but I have been able to get into their good graces so that they cook and wash for me. The reason why so many are in this house is because their houses at the front have been burnt in order that our batteries may have better range, and these women are sent to the rear, and consequently many are found in one house. They have lost all, even their clothes. Their slaves have all left them and they are now compelled to cook for themselves. This they never did before, and they don't succeed as well as our young housekeepers do north. Nevertheless I have some fun with them; but it is heartrending to see them when the cannon roar and the shells fly through the air, though we assure them that it is so far off the shells will not reach them. I rather think that this is because they feel that their army is getting whipped.

The night after I wrote my last letter to you I was awakened about two o'clock by the heaviest cannonading we have had (in the night). Six rebel batteries opened all at once on us without any warning. We did not reply,

but let them fire away. You may think this strange, and so did the rebels; but by our not firing, the rebels could not get our range, and, though they made the sky stream with fire and the air bellow as these fiery shells passed through, and as if it would forbid such unearthly sounds, they were only able to drop one shell and one solid shot into our camp, and these did no damage, though they frightened some half dozen niggers so that they did not know where to run.

This was a grand but terrible sight to see. These shells shoot up and come directly toward you bellowing as they come. It being night, we could trace them, even from the mouths of the enemy cannon, but they all but two burst short of our breast-works. How we chuckled to see this, as the enemy thought they were dropping their shells in the right spot. They kept up a long steady fire. This they try every now and them, but so long as we can stand it without replying, they cannot get our range. That is, we never fire at them in the night unless they get our range and drop shells where we don't want them; but in the day-time it is different. If they open then, or if we can see any, we open on them and dry them up before we stop. The result of the attack they made on our gunboats and fort I described in my last letter was 100 rebels killed and left on the field and not one of our men killed, but several wounded, say twenty. Day before yesterday their infantry came out and attacked our rifle pits, but were repulsed with terrible loss. They charged on our men and took some of their rifle pits. I think they guided them to get them into a trap, for when the rebs got a little nearer the cannon opened and drove them pell mell back to their homes. This satisfied them and they have kept quiet for a long time.

They seem awful mad at us here and try to get us out of this place. They are desperate in their efforts to drive us

out, but so far we have repelled them with loss severe to them and light on our side, and I think we shall be able to still do it. They sent us word last night that they would drive us out before morning, but I slept none the less sound for that.

I think that Grant gave them, on the other side of the James, about as much as they could attend to. We could hear firing all day, but about four o'clock it increased so that it was a constant roar of cannon, and about five o'clock we could hear the musketry. This continued to increase and about six we think a charge was made, for the musketry was a constant roll and the booming of cannon was incessant. Our oldest soldiers say they never heard such firing as that; it lasted about twenty minutes and all was still. No more firing in that direction since. Some decisive thing was accomplished there, and we wait anxiously for day after tomorrow's papers to know what it was. The Secesh women say they never heard such firing when McClellan was on the peninsula. They were all crying when I was up to the house about five o'clock. I could not cheer them up, and when this awful roar broke in they wrung their hands. The thought was truly awful to think that thousands in those few minutes were falling never to rise again.

You may think it strange that fighting may be within hearing and even within sight, and we cannot learn the particulars till we get the papers. We have learned not to believe the rumors in the army, for men are as bad as women to start rumors.

I was enabled yesterday to buy continental bills. These I value very highly, and two of them, I think, are still good, being £ notes, not continental money. You must save these for me. I desire to have them locked up and not shown, as they wear out easily. They are very old and will have to be framed before they are shown. I send

you some Secesh money such as is used here. I bought this for ten cents per dollar. Be very careful of it and try to keep it. I trust you will keep all the relics I send home, as they will be very interesting when I explain about them to you. This I hope and trust to be able to do some time, as I seem to be blessed. God truly is merciful to me. I sometimes think He holds me in the hollow of His hand. He is able to protect me as well as all friends at home. This is my prayer, and that I may be spared to meet you all once more. Trusting in God and His mercy, and with love for mother, father and yourself and all, I remain,

Your brother,

MOSES G. PARKER.

The larger story of the strategic movement by which General Grant, having failed in the effort to outflank the Confederates north of Richmond, suddenly swung his forces to the south side of the James and pushed the campaign against Petersburg belongs to general history. Dr. Parker, as it befell, was in position to see some of the most thrilling events of this exciting finish of the great conflict, and his letters are filled with "reporting" of a high order of merit.

His regiment had been brought up to the trenches in front of Petersburg, and on July 1st he wrote:

We have had terrible fighting in these parts the last ten days. We are now entrenched on the north side of Petersburg. Our line is about twelve miles long. We are

on the extreme right. Ours is the 18th Army Corps. The Ninth Army Corps, Burnside's is next.

I have not been able to find George Merrill. I have forgotten his regiment and company. Write me if you know. I would like to find him.

This is a delightful country, but it is very dry. The rebs are terribly fortified in front. No one can allow his hat or any part of him to be seen above the breastworks, for a dozen bullets will instantly be fired through the part seen.

This is a very unhealthy place, and all keep away from it that are not obliged to go there. It is very hard for the stretcher bearers to get the wounded in. Those that do picket duty outside their intrenchments are in rather a bad position. They go out usually for forty-eight hours, and, if wounded, have to get in as best they can.

There is constant firing between these men on both sides, night and day. They fire at the flash or smoke of a gun, but the poor fellows have a hard time when they move in the day time. They are often shot and seldom do they get back over the trenches. This is the great campaign and truly, when the guns open all around here the very ground trembles for miles around and oh, the vibrations of the air! Our mortars fire constantly all night, every fifteen minutes. One alone makes the ground tremble, and as we lie here on the ground we feel the jar if awake. I had no idea of war until within the last three months, and I am constantly learning something new. I expect we will have terrible cannonading on the fourth, if we do not have it sooner. It has been comparatively quiet the last few days except yesterday for about two hours when we had terrible cannonading caused by an attempt on our part to advance a little.

On July 19th, following, Dr. Parker told of being perforce relieved of some of the exces-

sively arduous work that had devolved upon him. A well-developed sense of responsibility was one of his lifelong characteristics which, as in this instance, led sometimes to his accepting more duties than his strength permitted him to perform. His weak eyesight made service in the hot sunshine of a Virginia July very severe for him.

Until yesterday (he wrote), I had a daily ride of ten miles to do in order to attend 1,000 men scattered over the circle. You will wonder about this, but our regiment is all divided up doing guard duty at railroad stations; and as this duty was too much for me and I was failing under it (the hot sun was too much for my eyes), I reported the facts to my Division Surgeon. I told him I intended to hold out until the surgeon of this regiment got back, but as the regiment was scattered I could not, and I must have help. After learning about the affairs he relieved me of all that duty except the sick in camp, what we call "in the rear." Only a few shells come here, and I am now nicely situated, with little to do, or shall have in a few days after I get my writing all done. I have a large tent all to myself, two servants to wait on me, etc. The division surgeon told me to take care of myself, not to worry about the men, do as little as I could—better have half a dozen men die than for one medical man to get sick, and that if I needed treatment at any time to leave all and he would send me immediately to the base hospital. This was all I could ask. I went immediately to the front, ordered all my traps to be picked up and packed and sent to the rear about two miles. This is about three miles from Petersburg on the side of the Appomatox river where I

have all my things and am living as well as any general in my tent.

The mine that was to have blown Petersburg off the map was duly exploded, as all the world knows, on July 30th. Of much of the excitement of this episode Dr. Parker was witness, and on the day following he wrote home thus:

Hdqrs. 2nd U. S. C. C.,
near Petersburg, Va.,
July 31, 1864.

My dear Parents and Sister:

It is Sunday, but sad to say it is not respected here in the army. Everything goes on the same and, as to the old soldiers, they seem to forget. I am glad to say that I cannot forget the day and I feel very sad to see war go on the same and have to work just the same this day as others. It is true that it is very difficult for the soldiers to keep track of the days of the week, and would be for many of the officers did not their duties oblige them to keep the days of the month; but they who have been in the service for years do not make the least difference. God grant that I may never get so used to such a life as will allow me to forget my Sabbath, for this is God's day.

I wrote you about the fine time I had one week ago at City Point with Mr. J. K. Chase and others. Last Thursday it was repeated, only he came up to see me instead of my going to see him. We had a fine time—rode all around. Mr. C., although he had never ridden horseback but once before, mounted my horse and rode with Spaulding and myself miles and over places so bad that at home you would think men crazy who attempted to ride over them.

But I will not describe more of this as you can see Mr. Chase who will be glad to tell you about it and us, the

horses, etc. He seemed to like the beast and our way of living. He said we gave him the best dinner he had had for a month. That, I suppose, meant since he left home.

We are having a very good time here at present. Some of our men are ordered into the trenches and we have to visit them twice a day. Rather do this than stay there with them all the time.

We were ordered to this place Friday night, the night that was designated (I think) by Grant to enter Petersburg and thus relieve us of all duty in the trenches; but he failed through some mismanagement of the generals. Some say Burnside did not order the charge soon enough after springing the mines that sunk three of the rebel forts into the earth and sent eight hundred rebs flying piecemeal into the air. Others say that the darkies ran and lay the repulse to them. It will be very hard to learn the facts in the case, as we have gained no ground and lost many men.

It was a success at first. We took the forts and two lines of the enemies' works; but when, in the afternoon, we attempted to take the third and last line the enemy charged on us and drove us back to our first position. Both rebs and we sustained heavy losses. The question is who lost the most, and still this cannot be learned. The rebs had to charge under a terrible artillery fire, one that boomed away incessantly, and one that it would seem impossible to withstand; and yet the rebs did stand it and drove us back, making us give up all the ground we had gained. It was a terrible thing. Yet we had to charge up the hill and they charged down the hill. It is thought that Burnside ordered the charge immediately on the springing of the mines which he did just before day Saturday morning. We should have been able to have taken all the lines and driven the rebs from the hill with less loss than we have sustained, but this was not his plan. He sprung the mines and then went to shelling the woods

around for half an hour before he charged, then charged and took the first line without much resistance; waited again, thus allowing the rebs to mass, and charged the second line. After gaining this, which was done before seven o'clock in the morning, he rested here till afternoon and ordered another charge upon the third line of works, but it was too late. The rebs were too many for us. The darkies were in front and not used to such forces. These men, you know, have to fight the thing out when they go in as the government gives no protection to such men. It is conquer or die; but they saw there was no conquering such a force and broke when the rebs charged. So we lost the ground gained. This is different from what we expected and we now must wait until some other plan is devised. I think it will be until we get more men, men enough to send our army to Richmond while all the breastworks are held, thus keeping the rebs busy everywhere and not allowing them to spare men enough to defeat the other advancing army.

I have given this for what it is worth; it is what rumors seem to have settled down to. Still, we have faith and can hold on here until we are ordered to evacuate, if this be the plan; but no one yet believes it to be.

You will wonder where I was during the fighting. Well, I slept quietly until the fighting commenced, having expected all night to go into the trenches as half our regiment had gone there, but did not go till Saturday noon, and then on the extreme right. The sharpshooters fire at us when we attempt to go into these places in the daytime. They have hit none of our men yet. I got in safely; only one ball went whizzing by me until I got in there. I was safe enough and could see all that was going on. I saw the charge and the driving back of our men. It was awful. No man could live long under that fire, and the shells whizzed constantly over our heads. We were perfectly

safe, as these shells that went over us were intended for men two miles further to our left. No solid shot or shell was fired at us. We were not of sufficient account to draw their fire and we had got so near their fort they could not depress their guns enough to hit us if they had tried; and there was a river between the fort and us so that they could not charge us, and all we had to look out for was their sharpshooters in going in and out of the trench.

I can tell you it is not pretty work to remain in these trenches many days as our soldiers have to. We visit them now, night and morning, and do not remain in them. It is too unhealthy work. We look out for ourselves as well as we can, I assure you, but after all we have some work to do. I stand it quite well. We are getting very warm weather now. It is quite uncomfortable. Still, we do our duty as well as we can trusting in God for protection. In Him is our only hope and safety, and in Him we trust for not only our safe preservation but yours, and that He will spare us that we may meet once more in our quiet home. I received your photograph and was greatly pleased. It is sweet to see your own dear selves. I think the sun shone a little too brightly in your faces when you had them taken. Nevertheless they are good. This letter will have to answer for the one I promised to father for the present, as we have considerable to do just now.

With love to all, I am your son,

M. G. PARKER.

Shortly after the battle of Petersburg, Dr. Parker was detached from his regiment and ordered to the Base Hospital of the Eighteenth Army Corps, then established in tents on the south side of the Appomatox river.

This campaign, of course, was one in which

a heavy responsibility devolved upon the medical profession. When the Eighteenth Army Corps left Fortress Monroe in April, 1864, it numbered 32,000 men. After four months fighting around Richmond and Petersburg it could muster hardly 15,000 effectives. The need of providing suitable winter quarters for the sick and wounded was already seen to be paramount.

The work that now fell to the hands of the assistant surgeon from Massachusetts he later described in summary thus:

> Surgeon General Suckley and Surgeon Fowler, my superior officers, ordered Assistant Surgeon Parker to build a winter hospital for the first division of the 18th Army Corps. I selected for the site a high point of land on the north side of the Appomatox river, six miles from Petersburg and eighteen miles from Richmond, called "Point of Rocks."
>
> It was a beautiful location on a high bluff overlooking the river, and from it could be seen Fort Clinton, Petersburg and some of the long line of breastworks that extended from Petersburg to Richmond. We located the water tank on the highest point of the semi-circle with headquarters at either end.
>
> We cut down the tall pine trees and used them for the log cabins and the sides of our hospital buildings which were built five logs high with use of tent cloth for the roof. The building of a winter hospital from the timber lands of the enemy attracted attention not only at General Grant's headquarters, but at Washington.

Of the character of the Base Hospital which was established at Point of Rocks, Dr. Parker later gave a detailed exposition in a letter, of March 14, 1866, to the *Methuen Advocate.*

On this bluff, on the north side of the Appomatox, easily accessible by boat, the commander-in-chief had arranged that the hospital tents be pitched. He therefore ordered the tents pitched and the wounded men made as comfortable as possible. While doing this the plantation negroes began to flock around, and we learned from them that the plantation was owned by Mr. Strong, a Baptist clergyman, who wanted to stay and abide his time, but his wife and sister prevailed, and he went with them. We afterwards learned from sermons found in the house that he was a clergyman of the southern slaveholder type. He had prophesied to his brethren that the Yankees would come, and advised them to sell their servants to those living in the interior.

As the improvised hospital grew it was decided to organize this into divisions, to distribute the patients according to diseases and to build barracks for winter quarters.

The barracks of the first division were constructed on the highest bluff, an admirably chosen site. Here seventeen wards, each eighty feet long, twenty feet wide and eight feet high, were built of logs, the structures grouping themselves like a horseshoe and facing a flagstaff on the bluffs. The other divisions contained eight wards each. These were very large, being

two hundred and fifty feet long, thirty feet wide and fifteen feet high. Each ward accommodated 180.

One surgeon was placed in charge of each division with several assistant surgeons under him. The four divisions were organized under the style of Point of Rocks Hospital, under supervision of Surgeon H. B. Fowler, of Bristol, New Hampshire.

Division 1, at Point of Rocks, had hardly been finished when an advance was made upon Fort Harrison, a Confederate stronghold on the north side of the James River. In train of this successful attack some 950 wounded soldiers were brought to the new hospital.

For three days and two nights following (wrote Dr. Parker), no surgeon at the hospital found time to take his needed sleep but worked until he was utterly exhausted. Great heroism was shown by these wounded men on this occasion, the worst cases being dressed first, the others waiting their turn without a murmur. One poor fellow who had lost both legs and one arm actually laughed at those expressing pity for him, saying, "he should now have nothing to do but watch those toiling for his support."

As Congress was about to appropriate a large sum of money for the City Point Hospital, Generals Grant and Butler both visited the division hospital, and after looking it over, asked why we had used cloth for covering in place of boards. They were told that we could not get boards as these were "all taken by the quartermasters to cover their

mules''; to which General Butler replied, ''We will see about that.'' The next morning I was greatly surprised to receive an order turning over to Point of Rocks Hospital all boards made during the next two days. I sent the order, with plenty of milk punch made from condensed milk to the mill, and never did men work better than these did the next two days.

All the letters that went forward to the home folk in Dracut henceforth were dated from Point of Rocks. They naturally were filled with details of the hospital routine.

I have about three hundred patients since I have been connected with the hospital (Dr. Parker wrote on September 4), I have treated, or I have had to pass through my wards for treatment and their names recorded with their regiment, company, etc., over 775 cases besides over one hundred others that have been assigned temporarily, whose names I did not take. You must judge whether I have any responsibility or not, whether I have to use my judgement quickly or not and whether I have any chance to see and observe.

The visitation of the two generals, just mentioned, is thus narrated in a letter of October 27th:

Last Thursday we had a visit from Grant and Butler. These generals and their staffs and we surgeons went through a number of the wards all around the hospital. They seemed well pleased. They, Butler, rather, as this comes more particularly under him, wanted barracks put up to hold 3,500 men. We now have barracks for five hundred but tents for 3,000. Something of a hospital we are getting here.

About a month later, on November 20th, he wrote of the construction work that was still going on:

One thing that makes Sunday seem more as it used to at home is the stopping of all work on the buildings which we are building for the winter. We are putting up enormous ones, 250 feet long, 10 feet high to the eaves, 19 to the ridgepole and 30 feet wide. These are the dimensions of one ward, and we are to have nineteen of them for the base hospital and about as many for the com. camp. We have already 11 wards in the com. camp completed but they are only 80 feet long, 18 feet wide and 6 feet to the eaves and 12 to the ridgepole.

The hospital routine on Christmas day, 1864, was thus recorded:

I will tell you something of how I have spent Christmas day in the army; but if I go into all the particulars you will think us somewhat demoralized. I have kept at work today over 200 men in order that we may make the hospital more comfortable for patients. This afternoon after eating a big dinner of turkey, duck and roast beef, with all necessary fixings except *good butter,* as I did not think best to take my butter sent from home, I went all through the hospital with Surgeon Fowler, Surgeon in Charge of the whole concern, visiting all the wards, cook-house, etc. He seemed well pleased—thought we were getting on well. I went with John Jackman after this to some of our *native friends,* to wish them a merry Christmas. Before going with J., I ordered 40 gallons of milk punch for the working men. We went out and tasted the article before we took our ride. We then went and called upon a family named Ray. Then to one Talbot where we had previously spent an evening at a game of whist with two very fine

young ladies. . . . We returned home early from our ride as John had to go to City Point, some seven miles, horseback. In the evening I was serenaded by five young men (patients), splendid singers. They sang to us over an hour. The ladies, officers' wives, sent their compliments to them.

Another characteristic budget of news and views from Point of Rocks Hospital was that mailed north under date of January 22, 1865.

The boyish petulance regarding the attitude of some of the women employed in the camp was evidently due to exceptional exasperation, for Dr. Parker's lifelong disposition toward women was one of great chivalry and consideration. The indication of an intention to go to France, presumably for study, forecasts the motive that led to a later attendance upon lectures in Paris and at Vienna.

Point of Rocks Hospl., Va.
Jan. 22, '65

My dear sister and parents:

I received your letter this noon. It was three days late. I was just taking my ease preparatory for dinner. My barber was working away at my beard when, rap, rap at my door and at the words "Come in" my orderly stood there with letters for Dr. Parker. Before my barber had finished I had learned more than half of what the white envelope contained. How eagerly we grasp at anything coming from the civilized part of the world, and especially for what comes from home! Although we get accustomed to make our home anywhere, we nevertheless

remember that we used to have a real home once where we could at least sleep quietly and comfortably under a dry roof and between sheets. Although I have had the last named comforts for the last few months I have not forgotten the time when I had naught but one blanket, one overcoat and the ground to make my bed upon; and for victuals, hard tack and coffee. I expect when the spring campaign opens we shall have to take the same again. You see I do not expect, as many do, this war is to close before spring. Ah, no; although I hope and pray to God that it may. Still, I expect another campaign and hard fighting, too. It is true we have been very successful the last few months and perhaps we have done more this last year toward putting down the rebellion than has been done before, put it all together, since the war commenced. Yet it is not yet killed, nor will it be without more and more fighting.

I see that Butler's arrival in Lowell has not only surprised many but has caused a great deal of gossip and much wonderment. Still, you, I think, will be able to gather from my last letter to you my opinion; but it remains to see what new developments are made, and what turns up before we can tell definitely how things stand.

Fort Fisher has fallen since. Although we had to pay pretty dear for it, it is not certain yet that Butler could have bought it cheaper. I am glad it has fallen, thus closing Wilmington and putting an end to blockade running, and in this way causing the enemy to rely entirely upon his own resources. It will be the means of making J. Bull think more of us and less of the rebs, poor Johnnies. I cannot tell how Butler feels about it. I have no doubt he is glad the fort is ours, for I think he is perfectly loyal.

Thinking I have talked long enough about these public things and which you doubtless have learned, I will change the subject now to our hospital surroundings. We are

prospering now about as usual. Still, it is nothing but receiving and discharging men most of the time. Thousands of men pass through my hands—probably two thousand a month. I have constantly on hand one thousand, never less, and oftener 1,200 and 1,300. The amount of care this requires you must judge as they have to be fed, warmed and nursed. We have had to build our own hospital from logs, but this is not the work it looks to be, provided one has men and teams enough. These long barracks make a fine appearance. They have already been photographed several times, although they are not yet completed. I wish I could get a picture to send you. I understand they will be sold in New York. Wonder Harper has not had it in his paper before this.

John (Jackman) was up to see me night before last. We had a fine time. John always plays the old N—— with ladies, you know. Don't know but this was the reason I had so much trouble with my lady nurses. I have three that attend to light diet cooking, and a gay little time I had, too, this night. I had to arrest and put into the guardhouse three men cooks who had got a little too much whiskey and were annoying these sensitive creatures. I was mad. Could not lay it to John, as he had never been introduced to them. Still, don't know but it was a contrived plan to make his acquaintance by these means. I have almost come to the conclusion that the army is not the place for women, anyway. It certainly is not, unless she is *a true woman,* and the number of the latter is so small. I hoped for the best when they reported, but at the same time I foresaw a great deal of trouble and annoyance. Still, I hoped the men would fare better in the way of luxuries, and I think they have. The ladies have certainly cooked their food well and neatly. They are good cooks. Ladies, however, are not so easy to get along with as men, and especially in the army.

How I would love to spend an evening with you, say two or three, so that we might take a sleighride and talk over these things.

In glancing back I see that I have jumped from ladies here, where there are no signs of snow to sleighriding. This is a pretty big leap for a man to make. Still, I must console myself by saying the one would naturally suggest the other; and as I have got to wandering thus, I must close, else you will find me traveling with John in France. Should the war close this year and gold come down to par you need not be surprised to receive letters mailed from France and from your brother too, should he be spared till then. Trusting in God for our safety and prosperity, I remain, with love to all, not forgetting Professor Allen,

Your brother and my mother's son,

M. G. PARKER.

Hard work and close confinement in the crowded hospital wore upon Dr. Parker as the winter advanced, and about the middle of March, by advice of his superiors, he went to Baltimore for a few days' stay. On the nineteenth he wrote from a stateroom in the steamer *Hero* of Jersey, assuring his sister that a letter from her "did my yellow skin good, for really I am as yellow as saffron. You will wonder why I am here and how I came. I am on my way to Baltimore to get the sugar of my constitution shaken up and the acids neutralized."

During a brief visit the young man resumed acquaintance with his Baltimore relatives and

returned to Point of Rocks in time to be present when President Lincoln made a memorable visit of inspection.

His recollections of the first of three opportunities which he had to see the martyr President at close range were given in detail by Dr. Parker in his Dracut Memorial Day Address of 1914. They contain details which he obviously did not think to include in his letter written home immediately after the event. Each narrative has data that supplements the other.

To his fellow-townsmen Dr. Parker told how

> One morning about eleven o'clock President Lincoln and his wife came on the little steamer *Greyhound* from City Point where they were visiting General Grant, and walked from our landing to the hospital headquarters.
>
> Being officer of the day, I had the honor of receiving the president and a general introduction of officers followed. The president looked over the hospital buildings without going into them. He seemed anxious and careworn. He was very kind and genial in his manner, and was carelessly dressed, wearing a tall hat, which made his tall figure look even taller than any of our officers. He moved easily, and whenever he sat down he would cross his legs, throwing one knee over the other, and then one leg would hang down nearly parallel with the other, making this position of his graceful, easy and natural. He said but little, was very thoughtful and evidently wanted to be alone; for he soon left us, walking to the Point of Rocks, a high bluff some twenty rods away, and sat down under what was called the "Pocahontas Oak." There he sat, looking toward our

line of breastworks. Sometimes he placed his elbow on his knee and rested his head wearily on his hand. Obviously he was thinking of something we knew not of. He had, in fact, visited General Grant and probably knew what was about to take place.

Mrs. Lincoln, who was richly dressed in black silk, was rather large, stout and very dignified in appearance. She had been escorted through several of the hospital wards by some of the officers' wives. When she returned to our headquarters President Lincoln joined her and the visit was over. By this time hundreds of convalescent soldiers came out to see the President and his wife. When they cheered him President Lincoln simply raised his hat, bowed and returned to the boat.

This same incident of President Lincoln's inspection of the hospital is told with an accompaniment of youthful facetiousness in the following letter:

Point of Rocks Hospl., Va., March 27th, 1865.

Dear Parents and Sister:

I received your letter yesterday and one from Dr. A. J. Greeley. I should have received yours sooner had I been at home but did not get back from Baltimore till yesterday noon. I notice I have spoken of this place as if it were my home, and really it does seem more like home, I have been so long and had so much built as I wished. So that if I have two homes this is certainly my second.

I had a fine time in Baltimore. Was there three days and four nights. Went to the theatre. Heard Hamlet and another play called "Emily Chester," written by a lady in Baltimore. It was quite good. Showed woman characters well. I stopped at Uncle William Chase's one night. Under the circumstances perhaps it was well you decided

not to come on to Baltimore, although it would truly have been a great treat for me to have met you there. It was very uncertain about my going. Had only five minutes' warning of my leaving and should not have gone had it not been for my health. You can see I have some friends even here in the army that take interest enough in me to look after my health. Dr. Fowler knew I would be as well off on the boat as I would be here; that is, I could have a stateroom to myself and could lie down if I was unable to sit up. Under the circumstances we thought the experiment promised success; and I can truly say it was more successful than any of us anticipated. I am feeling now quite as well as ever excepting my strength, and with the appetite I have had ever since I got the bracing sea breeze this will not be long absent.

Within the last 24 hours we have had a great deal crowded in. I can only enumerate some of the things that I refer to and not attempt to describe.

Yesterday, as I came up by City Point, I saw Old Abe (President) in his boat. In the afternoon he went up to the Army of the James and reviewed it. Last night and all this forenoon Sheridan's cavalry was crossing the Appomatox river just by our hospital, only quarter of a mile from my quarters. This afternoon we were honored by a flying visit from Mr. Lincoln and wife, their son Bob and Lt. Gen. Grant.

You will no longer doubt the notability of Point of Rocks Hospital. It is the largest in the world and today has been visited by our President, his wife, and son accompanied by Gen. Grant. I was rather pleased with their looks. Still, had I not known who they were, or rather did they not hold such high positions, I should not have noticed or been struck by anything about them, either in dress or manner, that would have caused me to think them more than some of our well-to-do and sensible city people.

It is quite late tonight. Troops are moving all around. The rebs are signalling with their green and red lights, and all of this time I can hear the rattle of our artillery moving and the tramp of our infantry. I rather expect a terrible battle tomorrow. We have arranged and got ready for 1,500 wounded. We expect this number certainly in a few days, and from our army, viz., the army of the James. The army of the Potomac have had some hard fights within the last 72 hours. We have slaughtered the rebels terribly; our loss, 800 in killed and wounded; the rebels' loss, 3,000 killed, 2,600 prisoners and their wounded, that is slightly wounded, we do not know. This is a terrible loss to the rebs. They charged our works and lost, you see, nearly ten to our one. I think this will satisfy them for the present that they had better not trouble our breastworks. Even if they attempt to make us believe at first that they are deserting by brigades it is unhealthy for them to desert and *then fire on us.*

I can tell you nothing of what it is expected this move will accomplish. We have to wait and see. We expect work soon, and I am glad I feel so much better. I shall be able to work quite hard.

I was surprised and disappointed at not finding Mr. Spaulding's family at Fort Monroe when I was there the day before yesterday. They have moved home to Tewksbury. You must go to Dr. Brown's and call on them. They can give you more information than you can get in every family about our doings here. I understood that they took home my dress sword and my captured rebel sword. I hope it is so. I left both with Mrs. S. Please see her and if she took my two swords home have them put where they will keep well. The rebel belt I sent you last year goes with the sword. They are neither of them ornamental. Nevertheless, they are valuable trophies. If she

has not got them write me immediately where I shall find them. I hope you will be able to get both home safely.

Some 25,000 men are within one mile of us and in motion. They are going towards Petersburg. Do not know where they intend to fight, but know they intend to soon. May God protect them, go with them, spare them and make them victorious is our wish and prayer. That God will spare us and keep us protected in His hands is our prayer. Trusting in Him who is able to protect us in all our duties, I remain, with love for all,

Your brother,
M. G. PARKER.

The next time I saw President Lincoln (Dr. Parker wrote in his reminiscences of after years), was after our nurses had been received by the President. The story is as follows: One of our most energetic nurses, formerly a Miss Joy of Boston, then the wife of a major (and later to be Princess Salm-Salm) and several other nurses wanted to see the President. They went to headquarters and asked General Sickles if they could meet the President. The general arranged with Mr. Lincoln to receive them at two o'clock that afternoon.

At the hour appointed the nurses dressed in their best, appeared at General Sickles' tent and said, "We want to kiss the President. Will it do?" "Oh, yes," said the gallant Sickles, "I only wish I were he." "But he is so tall." "Oh, he will accommodate himself," said Sickles; and he did.

Writing from the thick of the conflict and yet not, of course, seeing the closing campaign of the war as a whole, Dr. Parker on April 2nd, described the final effort of the Confederates at

initiative, their disastrous assault on Fort Stedman.

When I wrote last, (he wrote), we were on the eve of a terrible battle. It was fought next day and we have had it continually every day and night since. It has not been in the same place all the time. It commenced far over to our left. Then the next night the rebs attacked our lines about six miles to our left, charged several times, were repulsed every time. Looking at the fight from here it was a perfect hell for hours. We could see the constant flashing of artillery, see the shells burst high up in the air, hear the constant and terrible roar of artillery and musketry. This firing was terrible, and so rapid—second to none I have heard except that at Cold Harbor. Strange to say our loss for the night was only nine killed and fifteen wounded. We have gradually pushed onto the left, fighting more or less every day, the wounded coming in in small squads of 50 daily until today when we no longer are pushed to the left, but have flanked the enemy. Grant telegraphed to the general commanding on our immediate front at two thirty o'clock this afternoon that he had taken all the forts on the outer defenses of Petersburg and 10,000 prisoners and ordered all the troops to be ready to charge the rebel works in our front at any moment he might order it.

Even while the foregoing lines were on their way north President Jefferson Davis, in church, on a fine Sunday morning, was handed a telegram announcing that Lee's lines had been broken and that Richmond must be evacuated. That which followed is familiar history.

Dr. Parker's first visit to the fallen capital of the Confederacy and his third meeting with

President Lincoln, which he more than once described in his talks to patriotic societies and other gatherings, is related in his letter of April 7th.

Point of Rocks Hospital, Va., April 7, 1865.

Dear Sister and Parents:

I received your letter, mother, this forenoon and see by the tone of it that you are quite anxious about me and my health, but doubtless you have received letters before this that have dispelled all those anxieties. If not, I can assure you I am very well now. I ought to be, for the day after I was in Petersburg I went to Richmond and back horseback and some 20 miles additional riding, making in all a ride of about 60 miles. I went all over the city. Went to Jeff Davis' house. Lincoln was there—had a reception of officers that day. I was at it and drank wine after him. Got a small trophy in the way of an inkstand. Saw Lincoln go to Libby prison. It was filled with rebel soldiers (prisoners). It does our people good to see the change, and, strange to say, many of the Richmond people are glad to see the change, also. The poor whites as well as the darkies were almost insane to see Lincoln and greet his coming. I got a few trophies in the way of books, papers and a few little things. These, or what I can, I shall send home by mail. I shall send also some New York and Philadelphia papers. You must be careful of them when you read them and I wish you would get some trunk or box and put all these things I send home in. They may seem of little value to you, but to me they will be, as some of the papers will show what some historians will doubtless try to deny. Therefore, save all the papers and other little things I may send you . . .

I hope Mary will enjoy her visit and improve her health. I shall write you soon at more length about these captured

cities, but shall send with this letter "The Inquirer" and "Herald" which give a good description, not much exaggerated either. These papers please save for me with the other relics. Save those reb papers I sent a few days ago.

How great a change has come over us here. In a few short hours the tables were turned, and where it was death for us to show ourselves we now go, and in many places, are welcomed as we come. Our army has advanced far away—is some 40 or 50 miles from here, or was a few days ago. We do not know where it is now or how it goes where it is. They were fighting south of us yesterday and early this morning, but we did not know where. We could hear the heavy guns. The firing seemed to cease about ten o'clock this morning. It was evidently between Grant and Lee.

It is rumored that Thomas has taken Lynchburg. We can hardly believe this yet. It is only a rumor in camp.

About one-fourth of Richmond is burned. It is a pretty city. Too bad so much property was destroyed. We were proud when we all got into the city. Our men and officers were wild with excitement. It was a glorious sight and our troops behaved well as you will see by the Whig and other papers.

It is getting late and I must close. I have had to write hurriedly as we have a great deal to do just now. I have dressed 20 wounded men's wounds and amputated one finger since ten o'clock. Get so tired at times, but am now well and able to work. I hope Mary will get my swords of Mrs. Spaulding if she goes to Mr. Brown's. Trusting in God who is the source of all our blessings, I remain

Your son,
M. G. PARKER.

A few details of the visit to Richmond which were not set down in the first excited letter

written to the home folk appear in the later narrative of scenes and sounds in the captured city.

The last time I saw President Lincoln, (Dr. Parker wrote), was in Jeff Davis' house at Richmond the Tuesday following the fall of Richmond and two days after Davis had left so suddenly. President Lincoln evidently had the same desire we all had to see the inside of the city of Richmond.

The President, apparently without fear, went up the James River on a gunboat with Admiral Porter to within one mile of Richmond. Then he and the admiral were rowed up in a small boat and landed in the lower part of the city, and with only the sailors that rowed the boat walked into Richmond through the burned district which was still smoking and smoldering, having been looted and set on fire by the Confederate soldiers before they left the city.

All liquor, applejack or apple brandy found in the city was ordered to be destroyed. In many cellars, barrels of the intoxicating stuff were found. These were taken into the street, the heads of the barrels broken open and their contents emptied into the gutter.

Soon the colored people discovered the President, and on bended knees, with upraised hands, they and the poor whites shouted, "Glory to God." "Glory to God." "Praise de Lord." "Massa Linkum has come." Soon so great a crowd gathered that the soldiers had to be called upon to clear the streets, a carriage was obtained and the President was escorted through the city.

I was on horseback and saw President Lincoln in the carriage in front of Libby prison, looking at that place of horror, now filled with rebel prisoners, which the day before held our Union soldiers. We all enjoyed this sight—the tables were turned and we had the fun of asking these

"rebs" how they liked it. Later in the day I saw President Lincoln at Jeff Davis' house. Here he held an informal reception. He was greatly pleased at the turn of events.

I was proud to be remembered and shall never forget his kind and pleasant face and manner as he said when taking my hand, "The war is nearly over." He seemed as if a great load had been lifted from his shoulders since he was at the hospital a few days before.

Eleven days after this reception in Richmond came the tragedy at Ford's Theatre. The consternation and indignation that followed throughout the country was reflected in Dr. Parker's letter of April 16th. Its tone was unwonted perfervid and melodramatic; that was surely pardonable considering the excitement of the time.

Flushed with victory as all the soldiers have been, (he wrote), since the commencement of this campaign, wild with almost frantic delight for the last few days, all were sobered this morning when confirmation of last night's telegram seemed to be established, viz., "That Lincoln, Seward and son were all assassinated." We could hardly believe it although all flags are at half mast. Even this we try to think is a mistake, and yet all our half belief mingled with our disbelief tends to confuse us, and a death-like sadness rules all. Our city of the sick, for such it is, containing between three and four thousand individuals, is quite gloomy.

I have just learned that the story is too true; that Lincoln *is dead,* Seward dangerously wounded, his son killed and Chase's son killed. This makes all who have blood feel a

chill. We that thought to return soon to our peaceful homes and to enjoy the peace we had earned by many hard-fought battles abandon this idea and are already drawing the half sheathed sword ruthlessly, leaving the fancied home visions, and stand ready to rush in for blood and revenge. Woe to the Southern leaders now. Even though they may be innocent and free from this crime they will have to bear the burden, for every soldier is much more willing to be led to battle now that he may be allowed to satiate his craving for vengeance, than to be allowed to go home in peace before this dastardly crime of wholesale murder shall be avenged. The thrill of this sickens, makes me tremble in the knees. The only solace I have had is to visit our rebel officers' ward which is in my division and hear how the more sensible of them mourn the loss. They know, and have known, that Lincoln was their best friend, and yet how strange that they fight. Man is a strong animal, reckless, proud and without reason at times.

The war excitement over, Dr. Parker, like thousands of other peace-loving men, awaited anxiously his dismissal from the service. His health was none too good and he was naturally anxious to resume home ties. On May 24, 1865, he secured his discharge for disability as "Asst. Surgeon, From August 7, 1864 to May 21, 1865, on detailed service in Hospital at Point of Rocks, Va." On May 28th, following, Dr. Fowler wrote this note of commendation which was cherished among the especially important documents in the library at First Street.

Asst. Surg. M. G. Parker of the 2nd U. S. C. C. having been on duty at this Hospital and in charge of the 1st Div., one thousand (1000) beds, since October, '64, I feel it my duty in parting with him to express my thanks for the efficient service he has rendered. As an executive officer and surgeon he will hardly be excelled by those of his age, as a physician scarcely equalled, and I feel confident in recommending him to those who may need his advice whom to know would learn to appreciate.

H. E. Fowler, *Surg.*
12 N. H. V.

On June 12th, Dr. Parker, who was still at Point of Rocks, wrote the last of his war letters as follows:

Point of Rocks Hospl.
June 12th, 1865.

My dear Sister:

I received your letter last Friday and can assure you that I was glad to hear you are well. I am pretty well—say as well as can be expected in this climate at this season. Dr. Fowler is very unwell, but as he expects to go home with his regiment next Saturday he keeps a good upper lip. He is very like father about these things.

I am quite tired tonight. Have packed all my things home in one very large box. In it is a large black walnut chest. I send this home tomorrow.

I suppose you will feel easier when I tell you that I leave Point of Rocks in a few days for Washington. I shall probably start Wednesday morning. You will therefore not address any more letters to me at Point of Rocks for the present. I shall write you as soon as I get in a good position to do this.

Surgeon Parker, U. S. A.

I received word from John Jackman last week. He was to leave Washington last Saturday for New York. Am sorry he left quite as soon as I would have liked to meet him in Washington. However, all is for the best. I am well pleased. I shall probably be in Washington when you get this letter but you need not write again until you hear from me.

I cannot send home a darky girl very well. There are plenty of them here, but it would be unsafe to send one as they are so very ignorant. I have a splendid darky man that I shall take home this summer and let him see his young master's house. He is a good faithful fellow, James by name.

Have you received my large trunk yet? I sent it by express some time ago. Hope it arrived safely. Can't tell how quickly these things go. I am quite sure that they can't bang around the large box I am about to send, for two men can hardly lift it.

We had one of our steamers blow up today. She burst her boilers. Was loaded with hospital stores that were to be turned over. She blew up about opposite Harrison Landing, renowned for McClellan's retreat. What a shame. The more I think about it the more it looks to me like a terrible mistake, for the rebs had begun to run before we ordered the retreat and further they did not stop running till they had got to Richmond. This was proved by McClellan getting off as safely as he did. Had he been driven back he would have been too hard pressed to have got off at all.

It is getting late and I must close. So good-night, with love to all,

From your brother,
M. G. Parker.

Chapter VII.

HOME AGAIN.

A few weeks later the family and many of the neighbors gathered in the dooryard to welcome the young surgeon and his colored man servant. They had ridden all the way from Washington to Dracut. Dr. Parker kept no journal at this time and, so far as known, made no other extensive record of the events of this interesting ride.

How best to use his talent in professional service gave Dr. Moses Greeley Parker concern for a few months after his return from the army. He had determined to take a reasonably long vacation to restore his health and think over his prospects. His father, almost inordinately proud of his son's achievements, wanted him to stay at home for a while. Never had the old place looked so attractive, never were visitors from the nearby city so many and so stimulating as in the summer of 1865.

The weeks accordingly wore away while Dr. Parker arranged his collection of curios, talked and read with members of the family and drove his buggy back and forth up the Lawrence road.

As a young man, just as in later life, he had a temperamental alertness that made him enjoy extending his acquaintance and taking part in events and situations.

His father's failing health made it the more right and natural that Dr. Parker should remain at home for a time. No one expected that his father was near his end, but he had a persistent cough which worried the family, and, though he never complained of his physical ailments, it was evident that he suffered.

Driving home from Lawrence one November day, he was overtaken by a cold driving rainstorm and was so chilled that he failed to react when he reached home. Soon after he came down with pneumonia.

Every effort and precaution known to the medical practice of that time were tried, but a weakened constitution failed to respond and after lingering several weeks Theodore Parker passed away. The funeral, on December 23, 1865, was attended by a great outpouring of friends from the two towns in which Theodore Parker had been prominent and from the cities of Lowell and Lawrence, where he was well known, and highly respected. Of his passing an obituary

notice in the *Lowell Courier* stated the essential facts:

> In his last illness he was confined to the house about three weeks. He had been failing for several months past but had attended to his affairs as usual. In the early part of his sickness he seemed to be impressed with the idea that he could not live many days and expressed a perfect willingness to go. Death had no terrors for him. His vision seemed to reach beyond the dark waters of Jordan to "the promised land," the home of the redeemed in Christ. He united with the Baptist Church in Methuen forty-seven years before and was a member at the time of his decease.

His father's death made it certain that Dr. Parker would settle down to practice his profession in or near Lowell. He had had a notion, as one of his war letters proved, of going to Paris for further study. In another letter he broached a plan for migrating to Texas. His mother, however, was a woman of the dependent, distinctively feminine type to whom it meant much to have a strong man to lean upon, and Moses Greeley Parker, as has been seen, was a young man with a well-developed sense of filial devotion. His father's understanding of this trait in his character had resulted in naming him in the will as one of the executors of the estate. His mother very naturally encouraged

him, after these business affairs were attended to, to become a general practitioner at home.

In May, 1866, Dr. Parker bought the two and one-half story house at 11 First Street, Centralville, Lowell, in which he lived and died.

No pleasanter or more congenial place of residence could have been selected for a man of simple tastes; no location more favorable for a general practitioner whose *clientèle* would naturally be divided between the country town with which he had many family connections and the growing city which afforded, then, rather exceptional opportunities for the medical man of talent and industry.

Hither, in the spring of 1866, were moved the lares and penates of the Parker household in East Dracut.

Chapter VIII.

MEDICAL CAREER: AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The Lowell medical fraternity, of which Dr. Parker became an active and influential member, contained, in the middle and late nineteenth century, a number of exceptionally strong and even brilliant practitioners. The solid achievements of the older physicians of Lowell are notable in the annals of medicine. Of Dr. Parker's own generation, many of them like himself lately returned from war service, were Drs. Lorenzo S. Fox, W. H. Leighton, Daniel P. Gage, Hermon J. Smith, George E. Pinkham, William Bass, George C. Osgood, Leonard Huntress, J. C. Irish, Cyrus M. Fisk, C. P. Spaulding, Charles Dutton, F. W. Chadbourne, and George H. Pillsbury.

Most of these young physicians were, like their older *confrères,* members of the Middlesex North District Medical Society, which had an honorable history dating back to 1829. They were also associated in a less formal, more intimate professional group of their own, the Medical Journal Society which held monthly dinners at each other's homes or at local hostelries for

discussion of medical papers and for social enjoyment. The record of their meetings, which Dr. Parker carefully preserved among his archives, proved their essential seriousness of purpose. The friendships thus formed among them were enduring.

The practice, which had come down from the Bradleys, comprised the township of Dracut from the "Navy Yard" to the Methuen line, including Dracut Centre, the Marsh Hill district and "Black North." The families who soon became accustomed to value Dr. Parker's visits were scattered over a wide farm-land district. They were not an easy *clientèle* to serve. It involved no little physical hardihood in the bitter winters that settle on the hillslopes north of Lowell, to harness up and fare forth at any hour to relieve suffering. One day, in 1917, shortly before his death, Dr. Parker drove with Mrs. Morrison through an outlying section of Dracut and, pausing before an isolated farmhouse, said: "The last time I saw that house was in my early practice on one of the coldest nights I ever experienced, when I drove out here to attend a case at midnight. That was more than forty years ago and the bill has not been paid yet."

Faithfulness to the duty of the moment gave Dr. Parker a life-long standing in the town with which his family had long been associated. It was an urban constituency, however, which proved to be the basis of Dr. Parker's professional and financial prosperity.

The sufferings of the poor when denied adequate medical attendance had been impressed upon Dr. Parker, as already noticed, during his apprenticeship at the State Almshouse, Tewksbury. He was by nature responsive to appeal from the weak and helpless. Early in his practice he began to devote a definite and considerable portion of his time to charitable work.

The form in which this desire to do good first manifested itself was determined by the establishment in Lowell, at about the time Dr. Parker settled in First Street, of a new charitable hospital.

Several Sisters of Charity, of the Roman Catholic Church, whom a devoted priest, Father Crudden, had brought to Lowell to minister to the sick poor of St. Peter's parish, and who had also opened an asylum for orphans in Appleton street, saw so much want and misery in their daily rounds of visitation that they resolved to create, if possible, an institution where the sick

might be given the treatment which their condition required, but which could not be afforded in their ill-furnished homes. Father John O'Brien, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, co-operated with these Sisters in securing the needful authorization to open a hospital. Considerable funds were realized from a fair held in November, 1866, and in the following May the Sisters opened St. John's Hospital in the "Old Yellow House" in Stackpole Street, a historic mansion in which at one time resided Judge Livermore on the estate of "Belvidere," a name perpetuated in the entire residential district east of the Concord River. Excepting the Corporation Hospital at the head of Merrimack Street, which was intended solely for employees of the local cotton manufacturing companies, there was at this time no hospital in Lowell. St. John's Hospital, which cared for twenty-four patients in its first month, was designed from the outset to serve the whole community of working people of whatever religion or race. As it developed, in a mill town where industrial accidents were, and are, very numerous, it soon attained special facilities for caring for emergency cases.

St. John's Hospital from the first depended largely for its efficiency upon the philanthropy

of Lowell physicians. In this regard it has never depended in vain, for, to the credit of the medical profession in this industrial community, many of its foremost members, busy men whose time and skill are their principal capital, have given their time freely and generously in aid of the work started by these Sisters of Charity. The hospital staff in the first year consisted of Drs. John O. Green, Charles A. Savory, Joel Spaulding, Nathan Allen, Daniel P. Gage, David Wells and Francis C. Plunkett, foremost practitioners all. Dr. Parker at the outset volunteered his services as an assistant. Three years later he became a member of the general staff, rendering invaluable service as an ophthalmologist. His interest in this institution was unwavering and at his death he was still a member of the medical and surgical staff with the title of consulting ophthalmologist. He was then in point of service the oldest member of the hospital faculty.

Dr. Parker's mentor, and dearest friend, in his first years of practice was Dr. Gilman Kimball, one of the most energetic and public spirited of the men whose biography is given in Dr. Patterson's book on the older practitioners of Lowell and vicinity. By Dr. Kimball's advice,

the younger man in 1873 and 1874 carried out a long-cherished plan of foreign study, attending lectures in London, Paris, Florence, Rome and Vienna.

This sojourn abroad, besides wonderfully widening Dr. Parker's outlook, intensified his interest in electrotherapy and other experimental departments of medicine in which he had previously made some researches on his own initiative.

Soon after arriving at London, in May, 1873, he went with Dr. Kimball to Spencer Wells' Hospital to watch Dr. Wells operate.

After the operation, (as he later recalled in a talk before the Suffolk District Medical Society in Boston), Dr. Kimball, engaging in conversation with Dr. Wells concerning operations on fibroid tumors of the uterus, said that he thought there was much to be gained by the application of electricity and that he had, since 1871, used this agent in several cases with great relief to the patient, if not permanent good. He said that the idea was original with himself. It was certainly new and interesting to all present.

I remember stating at that time that I had applied electricity to carbuncles and that it had not only relieved the pain previous to suppuration, but had prevented the suppuration and progress of the carbuncle. This item was also new, and Drs. Wells and Kimball thought that on the same principle electricity might prevent the growth of fibroid tumors. Dr. Kimball, in speaking to me of this matter afterward, said he thought that electrolysis would sooner or later prove itself of great value.

This informal conference in London led to studies in electrotheropeutics made in Lowell by Dr. Kimball and Dr. Parker, which were of very considerable moment in the annals of medicine.

Vienna, of all European capitals, had, of course, the greatest attraction for American medical students, in the seventies, and there Dr. Parker spent several profitable months. He enjoyed the city and its hospitable people. A little incident of his stay did not decrease his feeling of gratitude to the Viennese.

It happened soon after he arrived in Austria that the American banking house of Jay Cooke and Company, through which he had taken out his letter of credit, failed. His paper certificates could not be cashed at any Viennese bank. The young physician was penniless. His landlady, however, when the circumstances were explained, bade him have no anxiety about his room rent and volunteered to lend him whatever money he needed until he should hear from home. She made the flattering statement that she had never known a dishonest American yet, and never expected to find one.

One of Dr. Parker's letters to his mother from Vienna is revelatory of his keen enjoyment of

the opportunities of travel and foreign study. It follows:

Wien, July 1st, 1873.

Dear Mother:

You see by this that I am in Vienna, the city of the East and of the exposition, or, as the Germans call it, Weltausstellung. Fearing you may not pronounce it, I will write it again: Welt-ausstell-ing. The names are horrid, and think of me in this great city all alone in a German family who cannot speak one word of English, taking my meals out, for this is the way to learn German. I take my dictionary to the cafe' and use it at the table. In fact I carry a small library with me always.

I am nicely situated in the students' quarter, near the hospital, and a mile and a half or two miles from the Exposition. I have not been inside the Exposition yet because I want all the benefit possible from the medical courses that are in full operation now, and I shall attend to these closely for the present. I cannot say how long I shall be here—certainly for some time, if I find as much to interest me as I have thus far. I am taking private courses of instruction from the German professors (in English). They are very kind and polite.

After medicine comes the Exposition and when I commence to examine it I will try and give you a description, and I hope to have the time to make my letters not only interesting to you but worth preserving. For the present it is hard study before pleasure, for I expect pleasure in visiting the Exposition.

Dr. Kimball left today, as he told me last night he expected to do if his wife was well enough. She has overdone and been prostrated the last few days. I have not been about with them much of late. I left them at Lucerne, or rather went my way and they went theirs, our desires not

being the same. I wanted to see more than I could, traveling with ladies.

I wrote last from Lucerne, and a lovely place it was. From Lucerne I went to Brience, then to Fiessbeck, where I saw the illumination of the falls which was so magnificent that to describe it would fill a whole letter. Fiessbeck to Interlaken—a more beautiful place than Lucerne with wonderful hotels, wonderfully grand scenery. Interlaken to the Upper Glacier. Crossed the glacier, which no pen can describe. Went into the ice 250 feet through an artificial passage to a grotto. The ice transparent, clear and solid, yet moving. From this spot saw the Wetterhorn, Silberhorn, two of the highest peaks of the Alps. Saw four avalanches. The noise was like thunder as they fell crashing away down from the mountain peaks. (How I would like to be with you for a day to describe the scenes and answer questions.)

Back to Interlaken, and in a two-story car. Rode on the upper part and it was fine. The scenery was magnificent and it could really be seen, the compartment being open with only a rail around the car. Then to Bonn, an old town built like Chester, England. Arcades all over the town—that is, the houses are built over the sidewalk or the sidewalk built in the houses, whichever way you like to put it. It is a very droll place. Visited the hospitals and attended lectures there. Next to Basel, a town of little importance to tourists. Then to Shafhausen, the falls of which are very picturesque—not larger than the Pawtucket falls, but more beautiful. Next to Romanshausen across Lake Constance and to Munich, and a beautiful city it is with its palaces, its medical school, its Glypotothek, its Pinakothek, old and new, its Polytechnic and its "Bavaria," the largest bronze in the world. I think this is the goddess of liberty, sixty-eight feet high, sitting on a marble pedestal forty feet high. Went up into the head of the

maiden, who is huge enough to hold ten at one time. The National Museum has the largest collection of armor and ancient relics I have yet seen. The theatre here is marvelous. Attended the opera, but did not enjoy it as well as in Italy. The piece was in German and represented the period of 1500 with court balls, etc., etc. It was good as a historical play, but not as an opera.

But the best of all in Munich is the Munich beer. Now don't tell people I have become a drunkard because I like my Munich beer. I do like it, and I have yet to find anybody who did not like it after trying it a few times. It is delicious. You drink a pint. It is victuals and drink—does not intoxicate, but is better for one than the wine of Italy or France or the beer of Vienna. *Munich Beer, Munich Beer!*

From Munich to Saltzburg. With its castle so finely situated even its photograph is perfect. As a copy or for a design for a painting the original cannot be improved.

Next I visited the salt mine. Went down into the mine, which is in a marble mountain seven or eight thousand feet high. Found here a lake, sailed across it, saw the islands, three or four, and one large peninsula. This was a mile from daylight. Only think: Over one mile of earth above us—nearly two miles to the entrance and the foot of the mountain. That is, I went up the mountain on the outside on foot, descended into the mountain horizontally over a mile and then rode nearly two miles to the opening at the foot of the mountain. It will take more than one letter to describe this exploration of mine.

From here I went to Vienna, where I shall probably be for some months; but you will address your letter to London as usual, and write as often as you can. Send me a paper, the weekly *Vox* and Boston weekly *Journal*—especially the

Lowell Vox Populi. I will send you papers when I find one printed in English. I am doing well. With love to all,

I remain, your son,

M. G. Parker.

For a mature student, as Dr. Parker was in 1873, the lecturers and demonstrations at the Medicinisches Professoren collegium in Vienna were extremely worth while. He retained in later years a tender remembrance of his months of study among the courteous and skilled Austrians, and no one was more regretful than he when Austria succumbed to the pan-Germanic delusion and became a partner of Prussia in provoking the World War. Over the mantel, in the place of honor in his study, hung a lithographed group of portraits of the faculty of the medical college in the year of his brief residence at Vienna. The several professors were: Theodor Billroth, Franz R. Seligman, Christian A. Voight, Ferdinand Hebra, Carl Langer, Josef Skoda, Josef Spathadalbert Buchek, H. Bamberger, Carl Sigmund von Jlanor, Carl Rudolph Braun, Johann Freiherr von Dumreicher, Ernst Brucke, Johann Dlauhy, Carl Rokilansky, Carl D. von Schroff, Josef Hyrtl.

With his powers of observation and scientific curiosity naturally acute, Dr. Parker observed

and recorded many of the less usual features of medical and surgical practice and experimentation current in Vienna in 1873. His notes on such cases were often used in later years to illustrate his talks before medical societies. One of these reminiscences which has popular as well as medical interest, and which may be worth recalling, concerns a famous case of cancer excision, a subject which had especial fascination for the Lowell physician.

This was a case of cancer of the larynx, (wrote Dr. Parker), in a man about forty years of age, a patient of Professor Billroth. The professor had operated two years previous to the last operation by cutting through the trachea as for tracheotomy and removing the cancer from the larynx. The cancer reappearing, a second operation was proposed, but upon opening the trachea the disease was found to be too extensive to attempt its removal without the removal of the entire larynx. Rather than close the wound already made and leave the man to his fate, it was thought best to remove the entire larynx together with the epiglottis, there being enough of healthy mucous membrane to close the opening to the larynx, so that the fluids could pass to the stomach without leakage. The larynx was removed, the end of the trachea sewed to the external skin, a tube inserted, the wound closed around it and left to heal. This took place rapidly, with some ulceration. Two weeks afterwards it was nearly healed. At this time I talked with the man (by writing on a slate). He said he had had but little pain. He could get air enough into the larynx to say "pa", "ma", and a few other monosyllables.

This was when I was leaving Vienna. Some weeks later when I was in Berlin I heard from a medical student who had heard this man speak that they had invented a rubber tube with rubber chords, and that with this rubber larynx he could speak so as to be heard three hundred feet. This was truly a living curiosity, but not long to remain. Six weeks later, when I was in Paris I heard that the cancer reappeared and death followed.

Upon his return to Lowell after his period of foreign study, Dr. Parker settled into what his family and he supposed would be a lifelong practice of medicine attended by reasonable financial success and local reputation. The place was growing steadily in population and wealth; even though the quality of the citizenship was already somewhat deteriorating, the city was an agreeable one to live in. The opportunities before a well-trained practitioner of suitable personality were excellent. Of these professional chances Dr. Parker was alert to take advantage. He seemed to have found his *métier,* his little *niche* in the world.

It was by no means a small and selfish career which the medical man, now in his thirties, was following. His charitable work increased in extent and breadth, and gave him a clear perception of the needs of the indigent and helpless. Soon after he came back from Europe he became

interested again in the problems of the State Almshouse at Tewksbury, with which he first became acquainted during his apprenticeship, under Dr. Brown. In this institution, as elsewhere, appreciation was keen for his unselfish devotion and sense of responsibility.

The 1875 report of Dr. Nichols, resident physician at the Almshouse, printed as public document No. 26, had this paragraph concerning Dr. Parker's services:

> Moses G. Parker, M. D., of Lowell, a promising and enterprising young man, who has spent more than a year in the medical schools of London, Paris and Germany, in perfecting himself in the science of surgery, especially of the eye and ear, to which he proposes, as specialist, to devote his time and talent, about a year ago volunteered to visit the institution once a week and perform, gratuitously, any operation upon the eye or ear, or any other intricate surgery, that might be required. This he has continued to do throughout the year, and his operations have been performed with neatness, skill and despatch.
>
> I think Dr. Parker deserving of great praise for his services, gratuitously rendered in behalf of suffering humanity.

Again in 1876, Dr. W. H. Lathrop, then resident physician at the Almshouse, commended Dr. Parker's work and conveyed to him from the board of inspectors a vote of thanks "For his skillful and freely bestowed treatment of the

patients afflicted with diseases of the eye and ear, and especially in cases of cataract." At this era, it may be noted, began the Lowell physician's long friendship with Dr. Lathrop. When a few years later, in the governship of General Butler, sweeping changes were made at Tewksbury, Dr. Lathrop, upon his associate's advice, settled in an adjacent house in First Street and entered upon a long period of arduous, and often ill-paid practice among the poor of Lowell, which was terminated by his death in the winter of 1918. No one would have been more pleased than Dr. Parker by the tributes of respect and affection which were brought forth upon the passing of this very noble man.

The Ministry-at-Large, in Lowell, likewise commanded much of Dr. Parker's time and skill in the years of his most arduous medical practice. This organization, founded under Unitarian auspices by vote of the First Unitarian Society, May 15, 1845, has for many years conducted a free chapel in Middlesex Street with which various charitable undertakings are allied. Even before the Civil War, when the socialization of religion was less generally practiced than now, an institutional church was conducted by the Ministry-at-Large under direction of Rev.

Horatio Wood. The work done under such a foundation appealed strongly to Dr. Parker's humanitarian bent and he gave much of his best thought toward development of its medical services. The first formal record of his co-operation with the Ministry occurs in the 1876 report which commends. . . .

> The free treatment of patients by M. G. Parker, M. D. The latter is a new feature of this charity, introduced since our last report. Dr. Parker, having given special attention to these subjects, kindly volunteered his services one hour a day and four days in the week, for the benefit of the poor who might wish to avail themselves of this privilege at the Chapel. The matter was laid before the Board of Directors, and after due deliberation it was unanimously decided to accept the offer; and with the opening of the year the Doctor commenced his visits, with a daily average of a fraction less than five patients in attendance through the year, with excellent results, thus bringing relief to a much larger number than we had anticipated—the number of cases being 91.

The earliest of Dr. Parker's vacation journeys to Europe usually of brief duration, for he could not afford to leave his practice for any length of time, was that of 1879. An interesting souvenir of this sojourn is a letter which was written to Dr. Clarence A. Viles, who looked after the Doctor's practice during his absence. It concerns a journey into cloudland, made in a

captive balloon, the essential part being as fol lows:

The signal was given, and we felt the sensation that we had left the earth. To understand this fully one must realize it—it cannot be described, and if it could, one has no time for the task; one wants to see all he can. The observer is soon far above the buildings and they recede rapidly from him. He sees things in an entirely new way and from a decidedly novel standpoint. He feels no sensation of motion, but sees and feels that the earth is rapidly going from him. He looks with wonder at the buildings, the streets, the parks and the water, and beholds the fish moving across the stones at the bottoms of the ponds. Look again at the streets, the people are but dots, the carriages seem not to move, the paving stones look like mosaic on the floors of Italian chambers. A moment later the stones blur together and are lost to view. The fish in the ponds, which before could be counted, become like clouds of gold and silver. Another moment, and all detail is lost. Paris is at your feet, an indistinct collection of houses. You see now and count the towns around the city, and then comes the desire for speed, not realizing how fast you have already traveled. You would halt at Boulogne, take supper in England, and breakfast in our own dear native land. While this desire is on your mind, and without any warning, you are in a cloud. The land has gone from your sight. Your heart palpitates. Is it fear? No; for your ears feel stuffed. You ask your companions if they feel uneasy—if they have the same thumping in the breast; or is it fear? They say that they feel the thumping, but that it cannot come from fear, and this is true, for their eyes are getting red, the ears oppressed. They do not hear well and look at the meter to see the cause. We are 5,000 feet above the sea, and this is the first disagreeable feeling since we left

the world below. Now the signal to descend is given. We feel the sinking, but not the sickening sensation that often goes with it at sea. The land comes in sight as we leave the clouds above us, and we watch it as we experience the same sensations of vision as things become more and more distinct. The palpitation ceases, the pressure goes from the ears, a ringing sound is heard, and all is well once more. We wish to remain here and gaze, but we cannot. Although we feel no motion, we always realize that we are moving and that rapidly, from the rapid changes in the things we see.

To the end of his life, Dr. Parker displayed the same eagerness to undergo new experiences, particularly those which involved discoveries of some sort. When Alaska was first open to travel, after its acquisition by the government of the United States, he was one of the earliest to make the voyage thither. Apparently he never gave any thought to the matter of discomfort, hardship, or personal risk, so long as there was an adventure to be undertaken, or a new discovery to be made.

Chapter IX.

PARTICIPATION IN TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT.

Lowell, Mass., March 1, 1880.

This is to certify that the Lowell District Telephone Co., hereby sells to Dr. Moses Greeley Parker ten shares of its capital stock for value received.

Witness: The Lowell District Telephone Co., by the hands of the President and Treasurer.

W. A. Ingham, *Pres.*
Charles J. Glidden, *Treas.*

The document above reproduced, which Dr. Parker kept affectionately among his most valued archives is a sign manual of the insight and foresight which guided him in acquiring a substantial fortune. When this particular financial transaction occurred, so little faith did most people have in Alexander Graham Bell's invention, then generally regarded as a curious toy, that the physician, in making his purchase of a few shares, explicitly requested Mr. Glidden to tell no one about it. As an investor he felt, as he afterwards explained, that while he had the right to risk his own money, he ought not to run the risk that his associates would regard him as flighty and unreliable and thus, presumptively,

an untrustworthy medical man. He was perhaps a little doubtful as to the wisdom of following his intuitions, though he had satisfactorily demonstrated to himself that the telephone was practical.

This interest in telephony antedated, by several years, Dr. Parker's first investment in telephone shares. In 1876, Professor Bell lectured in Lowell and one of his thrilled auditors was Moses Greeley Parker. The same inquiring disposition that in boyhood had made the Dracut lad famous among his fellows by reason of his ingenious water wheels, was now evoked. The inventor's talk turned the physician's attention toward the possible uses of the device which he had already seen in operation. Before commercial telephone service was introduced at Lowell, Dr. Parker was experimenting with the instrument on his own account. Speaking in 1917 to the Molly Varnum Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the topic of telephone development, he thus briefly described his own pioneer installation: "I had at this time obtained from the owners of the patent two wooden telephones and had my house and office connected by a single wire, less than a mile long. I could talk with my assistant, Dr. Viles, as well

as if he were in the next room, and thus learned its real value. This line was probably the first private telephone line outside of Boston." The primitive transmitting and receiving instruments thus acquired, were cherished among the *personalia* at the house in Centralville.

The history of the first years of the telephone utility has been covered more or less thoroughly by various writers. Dr. Parker won the right to be ranked among the "telephone pioneers," lately organized as a definite association. Of the beginnings of commercial service in and about Lowell, destined for a time to be secondary only to Boston as a "telephone centre," he later set forth some notable reminiscences.

In 1879, (he wrote), a few men leased from the owners of the telephone patents the right to use the telephone in Lowell and five miles around the city; and started a telephone exchange and formed a company, calling it "The Lowell District Telephone Co." The wires at first were attached to, and ran over, the house tops, then on poles in the streets, and finally in cables in the ground.

At first boys stood before the switchboard, which was like a blackboard full of small holes on which, by means of a small plug, they made the connection for the parties, who called each other by name, viz: "Give me John Smith," or "John Smith wants Peter Jones." It was soon found that girls' voices were better adapted for the work than boys' voices and small switchboards were attached to tables at

which the girls sat. Girls took the place of the boys and have held them ever since.

Getting subscribers to the telephone exchange was slow at first as people "did not believe the voice could be carried over a wire"—(which was true, of course, the sound not being carried, but merely reproduced by the electric current). Then again they thought there was nothing to the telephone but two wooden instruments connected together by a single wire—a mere toy. Men were employed to whistle, sing, talk, to let people know that it was practical to talk and do business over the wire. Then came other objections. Some would not take a telephone, fearing that others might hear what was said. Families thought it impolite to call up and ask if the person wanted was at home. It was a long time before people realized that a telephone might be to them a policeman, a fire-alarm box, a time-saver, a faithful servant, ready at all times, day or night, to do their bidding.

The scientific man's curiosity concerning the telephone and its capabilities might have continued for many years to be no other than the avocation of a busy doctor, had not an unforeseen event given him a direct financial stake in the success of the utility. A disagreement in the latter part of 1877, which Dr. Parker had with other directors of the Shaw Stocking Company as to a proposed distribution of earnings, led, as it chanced, to his having funds to invest.

Having resolved to reinvest in the telephone industry the money derived from the sale of the

hosiery shares, Dr. Parker became and remained one of the most persistent advocates of this utility. He had begun quietly to talk it up among his friends and acquaintances. How often he met with scepticism is easily conjectured. Among letters sometimes showing a revelatory of the business man's lack of imagination was one from a Lowell manufacturer whom Dr. Parker had approached as a probable investor. "On mature deliberation," wrote this gentleman, "and by the advice of some friends, I have concluded not to become a director in the telephone company. As there is such demand for the stock the company will have no difficulty in disposing of the stock. I thank you very much for your kindness and interest in this matter and in many others to me." One who saw more discerningly than some of the local capitalists was Frederick Ayer. On his physician's advice, he acquired a few shares of stock. At his death, in 1918, his telephone securities were valued at upwards of a million dollars.

The contributions which Dr. Parker made to the operating efficiency of the telephone exchange in its first years were more than considerable. In both technical and financial directions, he was responsible for discoveries and

suggestions that made for continuous improvement of the service.

Operating conditions in the utility were, indeed, chaotic in 1880 and for some years later. The Firman multiple switchboard exchange had been invented in 1879. Though correct in principle, it was a crude mechanism compared with the elaborate and smooth working central energy boards of today. Induction and interference made the transmission uncertain. Successful connections were, more or less, accidental. Nobody really knew what the service was worth. Irate subscribers often protested. Nothing at all like the uniform rate-making had as yet been provided. The rental charge, as it was called, for a telephone varied according to the needs, desires and influences of the person contracting for it. Many instruments were installed without charge. Others were required to pay "all that the traffic would bear," which at that time was very little indeed, for the telephone was still considered a luxury.

The public, in point of fact, was critical, of the telephone in those first years. An amusing example of this querulousness was related by Dr. Parker in the D. A. R. address, to which reference has been made:

A doctor had ordered one of the best telephone sets for his office (nothing but the best would do). It was installed, and in a few days an order came from him to come and take the thing out. One of our inspectors was sent to call on him and learn the trouble. Entering the office, the inspector went to the telephone, rang the bell and quietly asked the operator, "Is the telephone all right?" "All right," was the answer. Then he asked the doctor, "What is the trouble? How do you use it?" "Trouble enough," replied the doctor. "I'll show you how I use it." He went to the telephone, turned the crank vigorously and took down the receiver. Holding the receiver to his hip, he stood off a little and said, defiantly, "This is how I use it—and the darned thing hasn't said a word since it was here." The inspector went to the doctor, took the receiver from his hip and placed it to his ear; and the surprised physician heard for the first time a very pleasant voice asking, "Whom do you want?" He did not have his telephone taken out after all.

Undoubtedly the most conspicuous improvement of service for which Dr. Parker was responsible during the development of telephony was that of numbering of stations in the directory. To his ingenuity we owe the convenient list of fellow subscribers that today hangs beside everybody's telephone.

This better way is seen in retrospect to have been more or less inevitable. So obviously cumbersome was the original plan of listing subscribers by their addresses only, that some more practical scheme of designating the separate

stations must sooner or later have been devised. To say that does not detract from the credit due to Dr. Parker, who was the first to suggest the following move toward the adoption of a method that is now in universal use. If in his life-time he had done nothing else worthy of commemoration, this invention (for such it essentially was) must have given him a place in the history of applied science. The following is his own story of the making of the first numerically arranged telephone directory:

> As soon as the value of the telephone was realized new subscribers came in rapidly. At this time subscribers were still called by their names, and the girls had memorized hundreds of names. Whenever any operator was out from sickness the service was crippled. I saw at once that calling by names would not do and myself suggested calling by numbers. This was not favorably received at first, but the number of subscribers was so large that something had to be done. The numbering system was speedily tried and proved a great success. It has been in use ever since. With these and other improvements the subscribers increased very rapidly.

As an illustration of the primitiveness of operation which his numbering plan corrected, Dr. Parker treasured a copy of the earliest list of telephone subscribers in Lowell. This directory was not even printed in alphabetical order, but merely in sequence of their reception. Not

without difficulty was the directorate persuaded that an alphabetical arrangement of the names would be desirable. While considering the desirability of calling the subscribers by number, Dr. Parker conducted experiments to ascertain how many names an average operator could remember. Seven hundred appeared to be the maximum, while the average was between 300 and 400. As he considered the reasonable certainty that at some time an epidemic would keep most of the operators away from the exchange, he saw an additional argument for the proposed change to the numbering system. He lived to see the kind of telephone directory he had advocated expanded into thick volumes of several hundreds of pages. It was a source of gratification to him that some of the best made telephone directories in America were produced (and are still produced) at Lowell by the Courier-Citizen Company, which has developed especial facilities for this work.

A reorganization meeting of the New England Telephone Company was held on May 8, 1885. After the meeting was adjourned, William A. Ingham, president of the company until then, was interviewed by a reporter as to the future policy of the company, and was quoted as say-

ing, sarcastically: "You'll have to ask Dr. Parker about that; he will probably shape the policy of the company. You may now expect to see the stock go up to par and dividends paid right off. New England is all right."

That statement of the defeated leader of a coterie of telephone promoters epitomized a remarkable outcome of successive *dénouements* in the telephone business between 1880 when Dr. Moses Greeley Parker first bought into the Lowell District Telephone Company, requesting the treasurer not to let his connection with the enterprise be known, and 1885 when he emerged as the guiding spirit of the ranking Bell Telephone Company of New England.

Dr. Parker was first elected to a telephone directorate when in 1880, at the instance of Mr. Downs, the Lowell management bought the telephone territory of the State of Maine and consolidated the newly acquired properties with those of Lowell, Worcester and Fitchburg. This property became known as the National Bell Telephone Company of the State of Maine. Through his influence, Frederick Ayer at the same time made his *début as* a telephone director. On the same board, representing interests away from Lowell, were the late Theodore N. Vail,

later president of the Bell System, and the late Stephen Salisbury of Worcester. These and other names appear in the directorates of several of the successive syndicates that finally were merged under the aegis of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. Dr. Parker's affiliations with the early ventures were not so many as has sometimes been supposed. In 1886 when there were complaints that dividends were not yet forthcoming, he made a reply to one of the few personal attacks that ever were directed against him, in terms which explain concisely what his connections were in the years of animated speculation and promotion. His letter of Feb. 12, 1886, states:

Editor of the *Lowell Morning Mail:*

Allow me to say, in reply to an article published in your paper this morning, signed "N. E. Sufferer," first, that my whole connection with the Eaton Individual Bell Co. was the purchasing of 32 shares of this company's stock of Chas. J. Glidden, and paying for it with 20 shares of the Shaw Stocking Co.'s stock, then selling above par ($100) and the balance about $200, in cash, twenty-five shares of which I sold, taking a dividend on the seven remaining shares when the Co. wound up at $29.69/100 per share. Loss by transaction about $400. I was one of the original purchasers of the Union Tel Co., but never a director. I then believed it would be a good paying property and hold some of the stock today.

"N. E. Sufferer" is in error in saying I was a director in all the sub-companies making up the New Eng. T. & T. Co. I was a director in only two, viz., The National Bell of Maine and the Boston and Northern Tel Co., and am now a large holder of the N. E. T. and T. Co. originally purchased by me while a director in the above-named companies.

I did, in unison with the directors and stockholders of the different companies, vote for consolidation, and as I am not aware of any dissenting vote, probably it was with the concurrence of this "N. E. Sufferer," believing with them that it was the best we could do under the circumstances, and I think now it was better than to combine as we were.

I was a firm believer in the earning capacity of the telephone property. I admit my error in placing too great confidence in reports then given.

Again the "N. E. Sufferer" makes a mistake when he says that I said that $70,000 had been left over from last year, that I endeavored to get carried over into this year to insure a dividend, but the Bell directors voted against it. What I did say was, that I thought this money (about $60,000) belonged to the present stockholders and, if I was a director when the money was available, would vote to divide it as a dividend among the stockholders; that I hoped there would be no misunderstanding about the dividend of ¾ per cent. payable February 15th, as this dividend is paid out of last year's earnings; that probably three more dividends of ¾ per cent. each would be paid before the final division of this year's earnings was made, which final division I hoped would be 1¼ per cent., giving us the 3½ per cent. for the year.

When I said that the Bell Managers were hard men to deal with, but that I believed in giving them their due, I meant it was difficult to obtain the concession they finally

granted. While it was not all we asked and hoped for, it was a concession, and I want to say here that I think, as I have always thought, and have so expressed it to the Bell Managers, that they ought not to take dividends on franchise stock during the life of the patent. But we should not forget that we, as well as the Bell, were parties to the contract which we were endeavoring to have modified to our advantage. The compromise agreed upon gives us, I think, very considerable advantage over the old contract, and in the absence of adverse legislation, the Bell holding its patent, we can, I believe, pay the dividends as proposed.

M. G. PARKER.

Lowell, February 11, 1886.

Without further consideration of the controversies and recriminations of an excited time, it may be urged that the temperate and business-like explanation which Dr. Parker gave of his transactions explains, undoubtedly, the commanding place which he henceforth had in the affairs of the New England Company. The directors elected at the annual meeting of 1886 were Thomas Sherwin, Henry C. Hyde, William H. Forbes, C. P. Bowditch, Theodore N. Vail, Fred Dyer, M. G. Parker, Stephen Salisbury, Benjamin C. Dean. These men and others of similar standing in Massachusetts, were henceforth Dr. Parker's closest business associates.

From 1886 onward his work in connection with the New England Telephone and Telegraph

Company occupied more and more of Dr. Parker's attention. His old friend and adviser, Dr. Gilman Kimball, sometimes reproved him for neglect of a medical practice that was one of the most lucrative in the county. His friend, Frederick Fanning Ayer, appears from letters preserved at the house in First Street to have been somewhat doubtful concerning the utility in which his uncle had already made a large investment. "I do not know that I care to take the new bonds," he wrote to Dr. Parker in March, 1890. "It is somewhat out of my line, and that kind of a bond appears to me to be principally a mortgage on the atmosphere, as the wires are in the air; if they are mortgaged I should not know what they were a mortgage on. Atmospheric mortgages are not popular in this office." Much more chaffing of the same sort may be noted in Mr. Ayer's letters.

At least two days a week, Dr. Parker now customarily spent at the New England Company's office in Boston. He was never a director who was content to be a mere investor, leaving the details of management and the technique of the art to others to understand. For years he reported on patents and devices submitted to the company. He interested himself in the real

estate investments which were necessitated by the multiplication of exchanges, at first expensively housed in rented quarters. It is no secret that the high standard of manufacture of telephone directories which the Lowell Courier-Citizen Company has maintained, was first urged by the director from Centralville who used his influence on the one hand to prevent the telephone company from falling into the error of hawking the annual contract among competing printers and on the other hand to encourage the newspaper company to do so good work that there would never be any question of having the directories printed elsewhere. This policy of continuity of relationships in business justified itself in the case of the telephone company's printing service and Dr. Parker had the satisfaction within fifteen years of seeing telephone companies outside of New England, including one on the Pacific Coast, contract to have their directories printed in Lowell.

Chapter X.

ELECTRICAL RESEARCH.

The first years of Dr. Parker's participation in the evolution of modern telephony coincided with his most active interest in movements and problems of scientic research. A scrapbook of newspaper cuttings made by him in the middle eighties runs predominantly to scientific topics. At this time he was ceaselessly experimenting with processes and mechanisms. Out of one of his researches grew a rectification of electrical theory that has added materially to the effectiveness and lessened the cost of telephone transmission.

While still in regular medical practice Dr. Parker had invented an incandescent thermocautery for which the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics' Association awarded him a diploma. He meantime had become an enthusiastic photographer, at first with the inconvenient wet plates that preceded the present era of universal snapshots, and later with dry plates. The usefulness of photomicrography in pathological work appealed to him and in 1884, in collaboration with Dr. E. W. Cushing, editor of the "Annals of

Gynæcology," he made elaborate photomicrographic illustrations of cases of tubal pregnancy. The relations of photomicrography to the oculist's profession also interested him. He read a paper on this subject at the Ninth Medical Congress at Washington in 1887, and results of this study were summarized in a more popular form before the Lowell Young Men's Christian Association in October, 1887.

Photography of lightning, undertaken usually as a feat of dexterity, was much under newspaper consideration about 1885. It was natural that to this application of photography, Dr. Parker should give many hours of his life from 1886 onward. The quest fascinated him, and he returned to it frequently during the next twelve or fifteen years of his life. His observations among his plates and prints led to his discovery of the rotary motion of electricity and to a practical utilization of this knowledge in the familiar twisting of the wires of the ordinary telephone circuit. These were his major achievements in the domain of scientific research.

Just what was accomplished through this fundamental study in registering the images made by electric currents, Dr. Parker, himself,

summarized in his lecture of February 21, 1898, before the Oxford Club of Lynn, Massachusetts.

Some twelve years ago, (he said), I discovered what seemed to be a rotary motion in the fire of lightning; it caused considerable discussion then. Our good friend, A. H. Binden, of Wakefield (now deceased), thought at first that it was the jarring of the camera which caused the rotary appearance. We were afterwards convinced that this was not the cause, as he knew that his camera did not shake when he caught one of the finest flashes of lightning ever taken. His photograph showed the rotary motion clearly.

Sir William Thompson, now Lord Kelvin, thought it was an oscillatory motion rather than a rotary motion which I had discovered. Fortunately, my friend, Professor Trowbridge of Harvard College, has been able to photograph the oscillatory motion and has presented me with a lantern slide of this which I shall show you this evening, together with those I took of the rotary motion, and let you judge for yourselves whether there is any difference between the rotary motion and the oscillatory motion which Professor Trowbridge has so well photographed.

We found then, when the wires were twisted in the telephone cables, as the lightning indicated, that the electrical current passed more easily than when the wires were straight, and as we could then talk only four miles through a cable in the ground, this little (an improvement of about six per cent. in the transmission) helped. Now, since the wires are wrapped in paper, we are able to talk more than twenty miles through cables. They still twist the wires in the cables.

Thus, modestly, Dr. Parker summed up perhaps his greatest contribution to effective telephony. His discovery made his name known to

a wide circle of scientific men. It led to friendship with one of the foremost personages in the history of science, Lord Kelvin of Glasgow, who was at first sceptical of the American physician's findings, but who later accepted them. The feeling of intellectual kinship between these two men was not fortuitous. It was not the manipulative skill shown in photographing some lightning flashes, but the simple, elemental reasoning by means of which a curious observation was converted into useful practice, that aroused the Glaswegian's admiration. This in all times has been a characteristic of the genuinely scientific people, that from facts which anybody might notice they establish universal principles of far-reaching consequence and applicability. One is reminded of Franklin's ceaseless reasoning from the most casual observations, as Dr. Parker tells of the circumstance, which led to his applying his discovery of rotary motion in the electric current to the every day work of the telephone company's traffic department.

In Maine, (he said), I noticed that many of the telephone and telegraph poles, which were of the native white cedar, twisted as this tree always grows, had been struck by lightning and that the current, traveling from the top of the pole to the ground, always followed the twist in the wood,

often taking a groove out of the pole from top to bottom, winding once or twice around it, following the grain of the wood. Whenever it struck a pine pole or tree, these being without twists, it ran down one side, taking out a groove or tearing the bark on one side only; plainly showing that the grain of the wood gave direction to the current.

By the summer of 1888, Dr. Parker was so sure of his results in photographing electrical discharges that he was ready to announce them as occasion arose. One of his early publications, written in a popular form, was a letter to the *Boston Sunday Herald,* which had just printed some illustrations of lightning as interpreted by the camera.

Chapter XI.

GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES.

Dr. Parker's enthusiasm for genealogical and historical research which, in his later years, caused his spending much of his time in studies which only a well-to-do man can afford to carry on intensively is shown by his diary entries. From boyhood he had been a collector. Just when he began to "collect" ancestors is uncertain. It was his personal recollection in 1917 that not before about 1890 did he know who his great grandparents were. This surely, however, was an instance in which an usually accurate memory had become somewhat at fault; though the time of active membership in patriotic societies and genealogical associations did not begin until after 1890. It was hardly conceivable that a man of Dr. Parker's tastes and temperament would not begin comparatively early in life to amass and classify data about the families with which he was connected by blood. The subjoined letter makes it evident that even before 1880, Dr. Parker was trying to gather records of the Greeley family:

Hudson, N. H., June 16, 1876.

Dr. Parker.

Dear Sir:

Grandma says she has the will of Ezekiel Greeley, also other papers that were his, and if you cared to see them she would be pleased to show them to you.

You kindly offered to send me some information regarding the Greeleys of the Revolutionary War. When convenient to you I would be much pleased to receive it.

Yours respectfully,

FLORA E. PUTNAM.

It is clearly evident that about five years later Dr. Parker was moving upon the genealogy of the Parker family.

These early inquiries into the Greeley and Parker genealogies preceded years of research such as few men of affairs would have had the patience to undertake in person. Dr. Parker relied little upon the findings of professional genealogists. For his own pastime he carried on most of the studies on which his family tree was based. His interest, thus aroused, became a compelling enthusiasm. It led him to seek admission to the patriotic societies. The associations thus formed broadened his acquaintance and his outlook upon life. He held various positions of honor in the Sons of the American Revolution, becoming at last its President-General. His support in the last years of his life was a

mainstay of the Parker Family Association in whose formation he had taken the initiative, and which he endowed. To many of his contemporaries he was best known as a devotee of genealogy.

On February 1, 1892, Dr. Parker joined the Old Middlesex Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, then a young organization. In 1897, he became a life member of the Bunker Hill Monument Association. In his diary of February 21, 1898, he records: "I joined the Society of the Descendants of Colonial Governors through Tristram Coffin. Mrs. Sarah Burlingame Webster, chairman of the Massachusetts Society, wrote me an invitation. Mary Corbett Richardson, founder, Covington, Ky." On February 5, 1900, he became a life member of the Haverhill Whittier Association. June 5, 1907, he was elected a life member of the Bostonian Society. December 21, 1909, he was a charter member of the Parker Historical and Genealogical Association of which he was the first president. He was a member of the Lowell Historical Society as reorganized in 1910 from the former Old Residents' Historical Association. In all these societies he was active, for it

was not his habit to be a mere dues paying member.

The honors to which Dr. Parker rose in the patriotic societies were not grudgingly accorded.

Mr. President-General (said Edwin S. Crandon of Massachusetts, at the convention in Louisville, 1911, of the Sons of the American Revolution), I rise to nominate a compatriot who has served faithfully in his local chapter and has built it from a membership of 25 to nearly 100 in his two years' administration; a man whose love of history, whose natural feeling of affection for the traditions of his own commonwealth and native town made him see in our society an opportunity for useful work; a man who saw nothing in the dry accounts of ancestry comparable with the opportunities to serve his state and his brethren by his efforts in their behalf. The tablets and monuments which he began, and to which his genius and zeal largely contributed, attest the enthusiasm which our compatriot has shown in the cause we love so well. Our state society, marking well his zeal, placed him on its board of managers and elected him through the vice presidential chair to the presidential chair of our state society of the Sons of the American Revolution; and he gave us a splendid administration. You know him well, compatriots; you have met him. He is familiar to you all. If elevated to the national presidency he will give you the same talent and zeal, the same modest, telling, enthusiastic work that he gave to us that know him and love him for his work. He is the unanimous choice of 1625 out of 1626 members who compose the Massachusetts Society, he being the one dissenting member. He has built into the warp and woof of our country. He is a true Massachusetts man, and that means a true American. It needs no word of apology from me to prove his high character and his worth, for his fidelity and willingness to serve as

shown by his own history in the Massachusetts society are his ample testimonial. And he will justify your confidence if you will but call on him, as the exponent of the commonwealth he represents, to gain yet higher honor by yet more service—the only way in which men realize on earth their dream of heaven, Mr. President:

> We learn from him that rugged truth and zeal
> Win for a man true weal;
> That e'en in midst of selfishness
> Blighting the world, such good lives bless
> And to our hearts reveal
> True manhood's noble crown and God's approving seal.

This eloquent tribute which preceded Dr. Parker's election to the highest office in the gift of a national patriotic society epitomized the activities by which he had risen into prominence, step by step. With no original thought of making a reputation for himself in this direction, Dr. Parker had applied his natural talent for diagnosis and curative treatment to the problems successively of the Lowell chapter of the association, of the Massachusetts society and then of the national organization. He had a keen insight into the distinction between feasible and impossible programs. His influence in this and other societies was thrown in favor of not attempting too much and of doing thoroughly well whatever was tried. In his own city, he showed understanding of the art of gaining pop-

ular support for historical and genealogical studies. He took an active part, in 1897, in arranging a loan exhibition of works of colonial handicraft, personally contributing such family heirlooms as he had amassed and inducing many friends and acquaintances to do likewise. The resultant display was rather astonishingly rich in souvenirs of old Dracut, Middlesex Village and Wamesit Neck. It included the 1650 deed of John Evered's land on the north side of the river to Edward Colburn, then lent by Mrs. Charles Dana Palmer, though subsequently acquired by Dr. Parker; the Revolutionary sword and powder horn of Captain John Ford, of Bunker Hill fame; the deed of the Hildreth Cemetery, Dracut, dated 1752; the wedding gloves of Lieutenant Colonel Moses Parker, of Chelmsford, 1761; many relics of Molly Varnum, wife of Major General Joseph Bradley Varnum, and other objects that helped to visualize the district's past.

The interest in local history was not allowed to wane. Dr. Parker was in attendance in November, 1901, upon the exercises in Tyngsborough under the auspices of the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames, at which a memorial tablet was placed in honor of the friendly chief-

tain, Wannalancet, son of Passaconaway, who died under the protection of Colonel Tyng in 1690. It may have been his renewed perception of the memorial value of such a "marker" that led to his undertaking, shortly after this, to interest Old Middlesex Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in a project for a tablet at Dracut Centre, commemorating the sons of that town who took part in the Revolution.

This undertaking involved characteristic thoroughness of preparation. Even previous to the Tyngsborough dedication, Dr. Parker had evidently begun a careful search of the Revolutionary records of Dracut in co-operation with Rowena Hildreth (Mrs. Charles D.) Palmer to whom he wrote:

Lowell, June 4, 1901.

My dear Mrs. Palmer:

Please find enclosed a list of the 2nd Co. of Dracut and list of those serving in New York per order of Congress, Sept. 17, 1776. Mass. Arch. Vol. 54, Page 222 and P 22, file G. You will notice that eight of these names do not appear on your Dracut list of Soldiers of the Revolution. So with these added to your already long list you will have 372, a good showing for a population of less than 1200.

Names to be added: Austin, Caleb; Chamberlain, Silas; Davis, Mitchell; Hall, Ephraim, Jr.; Parker, H.; Parker, Peter; Varnum, Benj.; Whiting, Jonas.

Sincerely,

MOSES GREELEY PARKER.

Dr. Parker was already first vice president of the Massachusetts State Society, S. A. R., when, on December 17, 1904, he was called upon to make the address of presentation of the bronze tablet given, largely through his initiative, to the town of Dracut by Old Middlesex Chapter of Lowell. This was one of the most notable events of its kind which had occurred in the neighborhood. Notice had been duly given to the membership, the press and general public by Solon W. Stevens, then president of the chapter. Special invitations were extended to each of the three local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The town of Dracut was, naturally, well represented. After Mr. Stevens' dignified and impressive opening remarks and a prayer by the Rev. Wilson Waters, Dr. Parker was called to sum up the reasons for the occasion in, perhaps, the most heartfelt public address of his career. Feeling deeply the propriety of venerating the patriotic spirit of his neighbors and his own forbears in the town for which he had an almost brooding fondness, he spoke as follows:

Mr. President and Selectmen of Dracut.

Ladies and Gentlemen: As Chairman of the committee on markers appointed by the Old Middlesex Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, it becomes my privilege to

present to the town of Dracut through its selectmen, Messrs. Fox, Colburn and Parker, this bronze tablet, placed here by the Old Middlesex Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, to perpetuate the memory of the 423 sons of Dracut who served in the American Revolution from 1775 to 1783.

Time will not permit me to read these names: you will find them all recorded in a beautiful book, presented to the town library by the Molly Varnum Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, June 25, 1903.

In this list will be found the names of 33 Coburns, 15 Varnums, 14 Richardsons, 13 Parkers, 11 Joneses, 9 Foxes; seven each of Abbotts, Davis, Hall and Sawyer; six each of Barker, Bradley, Clements, Clough, Crosby, Harris, Kelly and Taylor; four each of Flint, Foster, Goodhue, Marshall, Mears and Wright.

From these 423 sons, 113 were at the Battle of Lexington and Concord; 23 at Bunker Hill; 63 at Saratoga; 7 at White Plains; 69 at Rhode Island and 74 in New York State. Sixty-one are recorded as being in the Continental Army and 23 in the Northern Army without the place of service being given. Many were attached to companies and regiments, but the locations of these companies and regiments are not given.

In this list of 423 names I find one colonel, Col. Louis Ansart; four captains, Capt. Peter Coburn, Capt. J. B. Varnum, Capt. Steven Russell, Capt. Joseph Bradley Varnum; eleven lieutenants, Lieut. Abraham Coburn, Lieut. Ephraim Coburn, Lieut. Simon Coburn, Lieut. Niles Flint, Lieut. William Hovey, Lieut. Josiah Foster, Lieut. David Jones, Lieut. Temple Kendall, Lieut. Abram Stickney, Lieut. Ebenezer Varnum, Lieut. Micah Hildreth; 13 sergeants, Sergt. David Austin, Sergt. Moses Parker, Sergt. Timothy Barker, Sergt. Jerathmell Coburn, Sergt. Alijah Jones, Sergt. Peter Hunt, Sergt. Jonathan Jones, Sergt.

Gershom Flag Lane, Sergt. David Lindsey, Sergt. Samuel Mansur, Sergt. Mathew Parker, Sergt. Jonathan Robbins; seven corporals, Corp. Ephraim Lindsey, Corp. Kendall Parker, Corp. Asa Spaulding, Corp. John Taylor, Corp. David Trull, Corp. Elijah Tuttle, Corp. John Hancock.

This is the record of the officers from Dracut's 423 men, patriots in the American Revolution.

It is a record she may well be proud of; it places her among the first, if not the first, on the list of towns, for patriots in the American Revolution, giving 36 per cent. of her entire population which was then only 1173 to the defence of our country.

From these patriots you and I are descended. We may well be proud of our ancestors and of the town in which we were born.

As we stand here on this sacred spot, we can imagine our ancestors in those early days, coming here from the North, South, East and West, over these very roads, to meet at their captains' call. The powder house, long since removed, stood near by.

It was here these patriots met for drill, for parade and for target practice, becoming proficient marksmen as shown at the battle of Lexington and Concord, where of the 400 men that fell that day fewer than 100 were Americans and more than 300 were British.

The British in their report of this battle to their king complained of the Americans, calling them murderers because they took aim in battle; they did take aim, and they hit the mark, not only at Lexington and Concord, but when they aimed at old England as well. Because they were brave and dared to do this, you and I stand here today, free citizens of the United States of America; it is a blessed inheritance which we should fondly cherish and so guard that we may keep our rights inviolate and yield them not, without a struggle.

Our country has grown to proportions beyond our wildest imaginations. This has been so well expressed by the president of the Old Middlesex chapter, Solon W. Stevens, on a former occasion, that I must quote his words:

"The tree of civil and religious liberty which the fathers planted and which Washington defended from the British woodman's axe has grown to such proportions today that not far from eighty millions of industrious people are leading prosperous lives beneath its benignant shade; and if you would measure the perimeter of its influence you must stretch the line from ocean to ocean.

"Moreover in these latter days impelled by irrepressible latent force this monarch of the forest seems to be shooting out its roots beneath the water-flood, to be woven and entwined with the earthly substance of climes beyond the sea, in order that ultimately the lifeless air of the Orient may be stirred and quickened by the push and swing of the products of New England soil."

It is not yet 130 years since the beacon light at Charlestown flashed its signal of alarm to Andover, from Andover to Tewksbury, thence to Dracut Heights (Christian Hill), warning the towns that the British were coming and calling the "Minute Men" to arms long before Paul Revere reached Lexington.

There were no telegraph lines then; it was the beacon light and flint-lock gun that sent the signal of alarm throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, arousing the men of old Middlesex County from their slumbers on that memorable morning, the 19th of April, 1775, and it was Dracut's 112 men that marched that morning to Lexington, and followed the British on their retreat to Boston, delivering a deadly fire at the retreating foe.

It was the spirit of these men that gave us our independence and afterwards their descendants together with other men from other countries, who had adopted their

views and this country as their own, risked their lives in the late Civil War for the continuance of that freedom our ancestors gave us.

Standing here, I see before me descendants of Dracut's patriots who served, as I did, in the late Civil War for the preservation of the Union, when the South was arrayed against the North, and brother fought brother; when soldiers fell by ten, twenty and even thirty thousand on a side in the great battles of the Civil War.

There are men here who were in those battles and remember the scenes now more vividly than the scenes of their childhood. We stand here today thanking our God that we were spared to see our great country again united and slavery no more.

In closing let me say that we are proud of Dracut, our birthplace, proud of her record, proud of her ancestors who fought at Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, White Plains, Rhode Island and New York State, and proud of her 423 patriots, out of a population of only 1173.

I now in behalf of the Old Middlesex Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, present to the town of Dracut, through its selectmen, this tablet, embedded in a bowlder, provided by the town of Dracut to commemorate forever its 423 patriots who served in the American Revolutionary War.

This address, to which a fitting reply was made in behalf of Dracut by Selectman Arthur W. Colburn, was subsequently printed in the proceedings of the occasion published by Old Middlesex Chapter. In straightforward simplicity it is one of the best documents Dr. Parker ever produced, genuine, and for him, quite emo-

tional. The amount of research that lay behind it is evident to whoever examines the mass of material accumulated by the investigator concerning the part played by his native town in the Revolution.

On April 19, 1905, Dr. Parker was chosen president of the Massachusetts Society, S. A. R. His qualities and capacities had previously found appreciation in the state society. His election was a spontaneous tribute to these. He made a brief speech of acceptance in which this was a typical paragraph: "Our forefathers were not forced into the field by the dictation of some mikado or emperor. Theirs was no dictation, but the act of heroic volunteers, of free men. They indeed builded better than they knew, and we have seen their infant republic grow to be the mightiest power on earth. We are, indeed, and have been, for 130 years, the greatest moral power that ever existed."

Although he was not an orator by inclination or training, Dr. Parker during his presidency of the Massachusetts Society, lived fully up to the requirements and expectations of his office in making many public addresses. He refused no invitations during his incumbency; he did his best whenever called upon unexpectedly. On

May 23, 1905, when the Malden Chapters, S. A. R. and D. A. R. conjointly celebrated the dedication of Bela Pratt's picturesque Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Bell Rock Park, the state president was among the honored speakers. On June 16th, following, he was present and spoke at Medford on the occasion of the dedication of a tablet to John Brooks, physician, soldier and statesman. He was in attendance as a guest of honor at Portsmouth, September 23, 1905, when a tablet was unveiled commemorating the Continental sloop-of-war *Ranger,* built in 1777. On January 16, 1906, he spoke at the Northampton exercises at which the local high school was presented with a portrait of Governor Caleb Strong, Federalist war governor in 1812. On February 15th, he appeared at Lynn before a meeting of Old Essex Chapter. In April, 1906, he attended meetings of the committee to entertain the seventeenth annual congress of the S. A. R. On April 19th, following, he was re-elected to the Massachusetts presidency at the largest annual meeting in the history of the society. He returned to Northampton on May 21st, to speak at the celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Seth Pomeroy. On the thirty-first of the same month he

represented the State Society at the dedication of a monument in the Granary Burying Ground, Boston, to the victims of the Boston Massacre. On June 14, 1906, at a banquet of Old Middlesex Chapter, Lowell, he made a detailed report on the proceedings of the national convention which he had just attended.

This partial record of a busy presidency explains the honors that were to come later. The addresses which Dr. Parker gave before local chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution were not perfunctory and gracefully verbose, after the fashion of much occasional and after-dinner speaking. In them a serious man conscientiously sought to convey information believed to be pertinent to the occasion. The compactness of the data in many of these addresses is admirable for purposes of record. An address which was delivered before the Worcester Daughters of the American Revolution on January 12, 1906, may be cited as illustrative of Dr. Parker's general manner of address in a public gathering.

Madam Regent, Compatriots, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am more than pleased to be here this evening and to bring to you the greetings of the Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution, which is the largest

society of sons in the United States, although, when compared with the Daughters, we are only one to three.

If I had any criticism to make on this gathering it would be that the Sons are few in comparison with the number of the Daughters. I am well aware that one Son often likes to have two or four daughters with him, but what daughter is contented with one-half or one-quarter of a son?

The origin of these patriotic societies was due to California. In 1875 some Californians formed a society something after the order of the Society of the Cincinnati, but much broader. It was to take in all the United States, including all the descendants of Revolutionary sires, and "Sons of Revolutionary Sires" was to be its name. Invitations were sent to all the states asking them to form societies. Little advance was made before 1883 when New York formed an independent society, calling it "Sons of the Revolution," and invited all the states to form societies auxiliary to the New York society. Pennsylvania and New Jersey formed societies, but not as auxiliary to New York, and through the activity of New Jersey some twenty societies of Sons of the Revolution were formed by 1889. Early in that year thirteen of these societies met to form a national society, desiring to unite themselves more closely and hoping that the New York society would rescind its auxiliary clause and let these societies in on a common basis. This the New York society refused to do. Then the thirteen societies immediately formed a national society of their own, called it the "Sons of the American Revolution," drew up their constitution, fixed their annual dues, and before the year was ended, eighteen state societies had joined the National Society, S. A. R.

This society has had and has among its members two presidents of the United States, President McKinley and President Roosevelt; one vice-president, Levi P. Morton; one Ambassador, Horace Porter; members of the Presi-

dent's cabinet, judges of the Supreme Court, senators and representatives of the United States and thousands of the best men in the country.

All these patriotic societies have been prosperous, and they should be. They are all formed on the same basis and for the same purpose and ought to be as united as we are here this evening.

What have these societies done? They have caused the marking of thousands of Revolutionary Soldiers' and Sailors' graves throughout the country. They have placed tablets on ashlers, boulders and buildings to mark historical spots and places. They have created an interest in patriotic work throughout the United States, and especially in our schools where it is needed by the newcomers of this country. They have changed the name of Fast Day to Patriots' Day. They have protected our flag and kept it free from the hands of the advertiser. Last, but not least, they have recorded the names of their ancestors and of themselves in books and placed these books in our libraries. These are better and more lasting monuments than any you can erect out of marble or granite.

These are some of the many things these societies have done and they may well be proud of them.

In closing I wish to offer to you the same sentiment I did four years ago when I was here, namely, "Union." I wish you a union of hands, a union of cliques and a union of clans. And I hope the newspapers will report me correctly this time and not make me say as they did before that I wished you a union of hearts, a union of hands, a union of feet and a union of fans.

Among gifts made by Dr. Parker to the Massachusetts Society S. A. R. during his presidency was one of a handsome silk flag, which he pre-

sented toward the expiration of his first term. It is kept at the Old State House. Among treasured souvenirs in his library at 11 First Street was the following engrossed resolution, proposed at the managers' meeting of April 13, 1906, and ratified at the annual meeting on Patriots' Day:

VOTED—That this Board in accepting from Moses Greeley Parker, M. D., President of the Massachusetts Society, his beautiful and most welcome gift of a silk flag of the Society, in buff, blue and white, with the appropriate insignia of the Society embroidered thereupon, assures him of its hearty appreciation of his Patriotism, his love of country, of this Society, and of his earnest work during his term of office to promote the best interests of the Society, not only in Massachusetts, but throughout the United States.

Dr. Parker, is a typical American Patriot, a man who himself has responded to the call for volunteers to defend the country in its hour of peril, a modest, quiet, honest man; one whom to know is to feel the richer in experience, to have one's strength increased and one's hopefulness invigorated. He has won our affections by his manly course, by his steadfast effort for all that was uplifting in our work, by his conscientious endeavors to promote the best interests of our Society.

In behalf of the Massachusetts Society, we accept this beautiful gift, and pledge to the donor our best efforts to prove worthy of the heritage of our sires, typified in this noble banner.

VOTED—That a copy of the above vote, suitably engrossed, and signed by the three Vice Presidents, the Secretary and the Registrar, be presented to President Parker.

WALTER S. FOX, *Secretary.*
EDWIN SANFORD CRANDON,
CHAS. K. DARLING,
EDWARD C. BATTELLE,
Vice Presidents.

Reference has already been made to the Massachusetts President's attendance upon the national congress of the Sons of the American Revolution which was held in Boston, April 30 and May 1, 1906. This was the beginning of his active work as an officer of the national society, of which he was now elected a vice-president general. It was the beginning of a nation-wide acquaintance with the officers of the State Organization.

It was Dr. Parker's duty as president of the Massachusetts Society to welcome the national delegates assembled in congress at the Hotel Vendome. He did so in the following brief address:

Mr. President General and Compatriots: In the name of the Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution, I welcome the delegates to the 17th annual congress of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, with outstretched hands and open hearts to the historic city of Boston, with suburbs unsurpassed by any city

in the land, dotted here and there with historic spots and buildings of the Revolutionary days. In those dark days the towns around Boston, and Boston itself, suffered much; and on every road from Dorchester Heights on the south to Lexington and Concord on the northwest, and Bunker Hill nearby, was heard the tramp of the British redcoats. At last they were driven and pursued by the Revolutionary soldiers back into the heart of the city, where they found a temporary resting place, until permitted to sail down the harbor and away, never to return.

The address of welcome was concluded by an announcement of the program laid out by the entertainment committee which included a ride to Lexington, a tour among the places of historic interest in Boston and a banquet at the Hotel Somerset.

On the second day of the congress the meeting at which general officers were elected was held in Faneuil Hall. After choice of the Honorable Cornelius A. Pugsley, of Peekskill, New York, for president, Mr. Crandon arose to nominate Dr. Parker for vice-president in a graceful tribute. This was seconded by Judge Highley, of New York, who said:

Mr. President General, on behalf of the Empire State Society and at the request of the representatives of that society here, I rise with great pleasure to second the nomination for vice-president of this society of our distinguished compatriot, Dr. Parker. We have only to look at

him, my brethren, to know that he possesses many of the qualities which we recognize as requisite to an officer of this organization. I take it, Mr. President General, that the officers of this association are selected—have been in the past, are today, and will no doubt be in the future—not with reference to anything so much as their eminent fitness for the position they occupy. The compatriot whose nomination for vice-president of this organization I have the honor to second possesses, if I am correctly informed, all of those eminent qualities that go to make up a successful, patriotic, energetic and in every way capable man. Dr. Parker is that man. We also feel that it is a compliment to confer in a sense upon the Massachusetts State Society for the magnificent entertainment they have given us on this happy occasion. I take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Dr. Parker for vice-president.

The nomination thus made was confirmed by unanimous vote of the congress. On that evening the vice-president general, elect, served as presiding officer at the banquet extended by the Massachusetts Society to its guests. It was one of the happiest evenings of his life.

Thereafter, down to his death, Dr. Parker was a regular attendant at the congresses of the national society and at special meetings of its executive committee, to which he was elected at the congress in Buffalo, May 10, 1908. His sincerity, ability and public spirit met with immediate recognition. It was seen to be only a question of time before he would be asked to

accept a nomination to the presidency general. This expectation was met in May, 1911, when, as already noted, at the Louisville congress of the society he was nominated for the honor by his staunch friend and Massachusetts compatriot, Mr. Crandon.

Dr. Parker made a good president general of the national society of Sons of the American Revolution, as he was an energetic and efficient head of the society in his native state. His fine personal presence, his courteous and dignified bearing, made, everywhere, a favorable impression. His good judgment and understanding of financial problems were valuable. His readiness to respond to invitations from the various state meetings was appreciated.

A ceremonial occasion, the memory of which was especially pleasant to the president general during the remainder of his life was one forecast in the following letter of invitation:

The Arlington
Washington, D. C., December 21, 1911.

Dr. Moses Greeley Parker,
President General, S. A. R.,
Lowell, Mass.

Dear Sir:—Will you do the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, the honor of representing the Sons of the American Revolution in an address of ten

minutes, at our annual Congress, to be held in Memorial Continental Hall, Washington, D. C., April 15th, 1912?

Hoping that we may have the pleasure of seeing you and hearing you on this occasion,

Very sincerely yours,

JULIA S. SCOTT.

MRS. MATTHEW T. SCOTT,
President General, N. S. D. A. R.

A staccato account of his participation in the D. A. R. convention occurs in Dr. Parker's diary. Its tone is characteristically lightsome, befitting a man who enjoyed the crush and excitement of a great reunion of delegates. He liked to meet celebrities. He talked entertainingly to women, festively arrayed and on their mental mettle. He treasured their sharp sayings and repartees. The diary says:

Monday, April 15, 1912. Great reception to the Pres. Taft, U. S. He was a little late. I had the great honor to escort Natl. Pres. Gen. Scott to the platform and received with her the President U. S., who spoke so well. When he shook my hand he gave so friendly a grasp one liked him at once. His complexion is fine, like King Edward's. 2800 D. A. R.'s received us. It was an ocean of beauty. Pres. Taft said the blending of spring flowers and beauty. I said their intelligent faces like flowers gladden us in our journey of life. It was a great honor and successfully done. After which, dinner at the Willard, six ladies and myself; then to the D. A. R.'s reception, great and grand. I escorted Mrs. Horton, later Mr. and Mrs. Clark, and went to the reception.

A large photograph which was made of this gathering of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Washington, showing the President of the United States and the two presidents general in the center of the platform, was one of which Dr. Parker had a right to be proud.

One of several acts which Dr. Parker initiated during the year of his presidency general of the Sons of the American Revolution was the sending of an appropriate memorial tribute to the family of Admiral George Dewey, whose passing had occasioned national regret. From Mrs. Dewey came this letter of thanks.

Montpelier, January 9, 1912.

Dr. Moses Greeley Parker:

My dear Dr. Parker:—The tribute from the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, reached me some time ago, and the members of my family join me in expressing our sincere thanks to you and the others in the society for it. We were very much pleased and gratified with this act of remembrance and with the kindly way in which it was expressed. I feel sure that of all the tributes paid my husband this would have pleased him most. I regret very much my delay in acknowledging this, but I have just returned from a visit to my son.

Sincerely yours, ALICE P. DEWEY.

Other activities of the most conspicuous year of Dr. Parker's life were recorded in his diary, in the newspaper clippings which he filed assidu-

ously, and in the society's year-book, which contains the formal records. Massachusetts members recall the excellent impressions which he everywhere made and the pride which they felt in having their state represented in the highest office of the national society.

While Dr. Parker served the patriotic societies he simultaneously became better acquainted with his own ancestors and kinsmen. A note of intimacy may be stressed as extending in both directions. To him, as to most men of imaginative capacity, the past became very real as he lived among its records. He had many of the antiquarian's instincts. His many trips of exploration and research among the memorials of Parkers and Greeleys, the agreeable evenings spent in classifying data brought his forbears close to him. They ceased to be names copied from a tombstone. They were still an active, vital presence. They became better known to the descendants than many of his fellow citizens. He, at the same time had come to regard with especial interest those of the living with whom he claimed ancestry. He was at pains to look up many of his cousins and kinsmen. The acquaintances thus formed were often fruit-

ful to an inveterate collector, but that was not the principal effect of their formation.

The diaries in Dr. Parker's black leather volumes abound in such entries as this of June 27, 1899:

> Went with several cousins to the Old Greeley place at Mill Brook. Saw the old grist mill. House, site of Benj. Greeley's brick garrison house built 1650. Made over and a large two-story, oak frame house built on it which lasted till 1893, over two hundred years, when it was torn down, having been sold to Thomas Nichols 1840 by Benj. Greeley.

These expeditions of exploration yielded, of course, not a few additions to the collection of family mementoes that grew year by year. Many of them were shown at the historical exhibition in Colonial Hall, to which reference has been made. Most precious to the collector of all the ancestral pieces which he secured was a grandfather's clock. In April, 1897, he was much stirred upon receiving the following handbill:

Grand Father's
Clock.
By Auction
By virtue of a license from the Judge of Probate for the County of Hillsborough, the subjoined will sell at Public Auction, at
H. F. Davis's Auction Rooms, 13 Water St.,
in the City of Nashua, N. H., on
Thursday, April 15
at 2 o'clock, P. M.

an Ancient Tall Brass Eight Day Clock, with second hand and dial by calendar, formerly owned by Deacon Moses Greeley, one of the most prominent, and influential men in Hudson, N. H., and has been in the Greeley family more than one hundred years. It is ticking today with that same regularity that marked its earliest history. Call and examine it. Kimball Webster, Admr.

H. R. Wheeler, Printers, Noyes Block, Nashua.

This historic timepiece, as his diary relates, was sold after spirited bidding to Dr. Parker. It could not have fallen into more reverent hands than those of its former owner's grandson. While it is not known to have been made by Willard or any other of the great clockmakers of early New England, it is a sturdy, well proportioned clock which, put into good order, ticked for twenty years in the study at First Street, and is still in possession of Mrs. Mary G. Morrison.

Among the many ancestral relics in his parlor Dr. Parker especially prized two samplers, the work of Prudence Clements Greeley and of Lucy Brewer Derby, both antedating the Revolution. Beneath the latter he wrote the following label, with phrases which he several times repeated in his talks before patriotic societies:

Sampler, 1758

Work of Lucy Brewer, 1742, D. 1835, Wife of Thomas Derby, killed at the Battle of White Plains, N. Y., 1776.

This was the woman who sheared the sheep, spun the wool, wove the cloth, made the uniform and sent it to her husband.

This was the Spirit of '76.

In matters concerning his kinsman, Horace Greeley, born at Amherst, New Hampshire, of the same lineage as the Hudson Greeleys, Dr. Parker was intensely interested. He corresponded for years with the celebrated editor's only surviving child, Mrs. P. M. Glendinning, of Chappaqua, N. Y., and he assiduously collected Horace Greeley souvenirs. In August, 1901, he visited at Amherst the plain little farmhouse in which the journalist was born.

After breakfast (his diary says) drove to Horace Greeley's birthplace. Very pleasantly located and better than I expected. Mr. Hanson with six boys lives there. One they have named Horace Greeley Hanson. The cradle is there that they suppose Horace Greeley was rocked in.

When in February, 1911, the Horace Greeley centennial was celebrated at Amherst, Dr. Parker was appropriately among those in attendance. He made careful preparations for contributing toward the success of the celebration. Not content that the program should consist of addresses filled with the usual eulogistic generalities, he gave genuine historical value to the

occasion by producing, for the first time, documentary evidence tending to prove that his kinsman's often challenged conduct in going upon Jefferson Davis's bond at the close of the War of the Rebellion was not prompted by any spirit of disloyalty. Like most men of genuine intelligence, he felt strongly the importance of facts, reliable data, documentations, and he was always glad to contravert with facts an unjust or ill-founded prejudice. He was, therefore, especially pleased to be able to come to the aid of Horace Greeley's reputation. Before going to Amherst he extracted from his files a letter which he had secured eight years previously from an eye witness of the historic scene in the Courthouse at Richmond, when Greeley went upon the Confederate President's bond. This communication, which was read by the chairman of the anniversary committee, Rev. Charles E. White, and which was given much publicity in newspaper accounts of the celebration was as follows:

Buffalo, N. Y., May 8th, 1893.

To Moses Greeley Parker, M. D.
Lowell, Mass.

Dear Doctor:—The incident you mentioned, *i. e.* the interview between Horace Greeley and Jefferson Davis, won't take much space. After the bond was signed at the clerk's

desk in the United States courtroom at Richmond, Mr. Greeley, who had an engagement to ride with me, started to get out of the crowded room. I think he intentionally passed in front and near where Mr. Davis sat in the side seats usually given the jury. Mr. Davis saw him about to pass near him and arose, bowing and extending his hand to Mr. Greeley.

As soon as Mr. Greeley noticed that Mr. Davis was about to salute him, he turned away his head, clearly declining the salutation. I was close behind and noticed a deep frown on Davis's face. As we reached a clear space at the entrance of the rooms Mr. Greeley said to me: "I'm not hobnobbing with Jeff Davis if I have signed his bond."

At the time of signing the bond, Mr. Greeley stepped back, and, as he did so, said to me: "I'm not hobnobbing with Jeff Davis, but I think it for the country's good."

Sincerely yours, DAVID B. PARKER.

The following entry is in evidence of Dr. Parker's increasing preoccupation in the early days of this century with the records and mementoes of his Parker ancestry:

Saturday, Oct. 31, 1903. Mary, my sister, went with me to Wakefield to see the site of our first ancestor, Thomas Parker's house, church and gravestone, oldest in the Wakefield burying ground. Also the spot where his son, Sergt. John Parker's house was built in 1670, burned in 1900, being the oldest house in Wakefield and Reading.

During these years data were being tirelessly amassed toward a genealogical history of the descendants of Thomas Parker which was still in manuscript at the author's death. A personal

acquaintance at the same time among Parker folk was extended, which resulted in the formation on December 21, 1909, of the Parker Historical and Genealogical Association, with Dr. Moses Greeley Parker as its first president. Direction of the affairs of this association became one of its founder's engrossing occupations during the rest of his life. It put him in the way of collecting Parkeriana of considerable historical value.

Discovery that the Rev. Theodore Parker, distinguished pioneer of American Unitarianism, was of the line of Thomas Parker appears originally to have led the Dracut kinsman to collect in this direction. He liked to recall the incidents of his father's having made the acquaintance of his namesake. He often said that his sister and he were the only living Americans, so far as he could discover, who were of the blood of both Theodore Parker and Horace Greeley. A letter which he cherished among his Parker papers was this one from the venerable Julia Ward Howe:

241 Beacon Street, Boston,
Feb. 21st, 1910.

My Dear Sir:—I knew Theodore Parker very well, and greatly valued his preaching. He was quite bald when I knew him, but the little hair he had was of a very light

color. His eyes were blue or grayish blue—his complexion was fair with a delicate color in his cheeks. He had a Socratic cast of countenance. Dr. Howe and I loved him dearly and grieved over his untimely death, by pulmonary consumption. The disease was in his family.

Yours sincerely, JULIA WARD HOWE.

Dr. Parker presided at the annual meetings of the Parker association, always with delight in extending his acquaintance among men and women of his own lineage. He was the life of the gatherings, as his enthusiasm and practical support was the mainstay of the association. A typical entry in his diary concerning one of these Parker reunions is that of October 21, 1914:

Parker reunion. 28 present. Had a delightful time. Delicious dinner, served by First Con. Church ladies. Home cooking daintily served at $1.25 per plate with use of the church rooms to rear of church which is luxurious. Theodore Parker gave an exhaustive history of the "Parkers of Reading." Great study and well presented. Held his audience an hour and cheered. My guests were Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Tucke, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Parker, Dr. and Mrs. Dutton (Wakefield) and Mrs. Pinder. Mrs. Whittier had charge of entertainment.

A Parker whom the subject of this biography found to be especially congenial and helpful in planning for future conduct of the family association was the veteran Lynn editor, J. L. Parker, a close student of New England history

and a genial spirit, as many now in his profession recall. This aid promised to be timely for the family was much in need of specific counsel in arousing wider interest in the organization. How thoroughly both men were entering upon plans by which the association might be perpetuated is indicated by a letter from the journalist, written four months before his death:

The Beaconsfield, Lynn, Mass.,
Oct. 22, 1916.

Moses Greeley Parker, M. D.
President, Parker Hist. & Gen. Association.

Dear Companion and Compatriot:—Since the meeting of our association at Reading, which I regard as the best of our gatherings, I have been revolving matters in my mind, and beg leave to present a few suggestions for your consideration.

It seems to me that our society ought to be considered a continuing proposition, something more than a mere social affair. Ours is the only Parker association of which I have any knowledge. The remark of Judge Bancroft that there were ten groups of Parkers interested in the "great migration," of the 1630's, from England suggested the idea that we, the parent Parker association, ought to take steps to interest descendants from all the groups in demonstrating the great benefits conferred by people of our lineage upon the territory settled by their forebears. This thought came to me when I suggested Westford as our next place of meeting. I hope and believe that we shall make our visit to Westford a step in the direction hinted.

We have met in Reading, Wakefield, Lexington and Chelmsford. Let us now plan (after Westford) for meet-

ing in Groveland, Dracut, Groton, Woburn, Pepperell, Lynn, Princeton, etc., etc. The purpose of such meetings would be:

1. To inform our members in regard to "Parker towns" and
2. To interest the people in Parker propaganda, and
3. Secure them as members of our society, and
4. Acquaint the individual members with one another and thus foster the "family spirit."

For instance, Groveland was settled by Abraham Parker, Jr., and still has a large number of Parkers residing there. Ex-Selectman Henry E. Parker has completed a large genealogical list of Parkers and matters concerning them of much interest. Groton was settled by James and Joseph Parker, brothers of Abraham, and the history of the town is rich in events in which they bore a part.

You know all about Dracut, and what the Parkers had to do with the beginnings of the town, and whether there are many Parkers there. Princeton once had a large population of Parkers.

If this idea of a continual association should be accepted other towns in Massachusetts may be found to be eligible to visits from the Parkers. I must not forget the possibilities of Newbury, Georgetown and Roxbury, nor even Boston itself.

But I must not weary you further. Think it over, and if it meets your approval, submit it to Walter S. and Samuel S. and Willard F. Morse and get their opinions. In that way we will be more likely to get a full expression than is possible in the short time at our disposal at the annual meeting. Yours fraternally,

JOHN L. PARKER,
First Vice-President Parker Hist. & Gen. Ass'n.

Before another annual meeting of the association had come around both these Parker men, honestly ambitious for the perpetuity of their family association, had passed on. What its future will be is uncertain at the time of writing this biography. It was generously remembered in Dr. Parker's will.

Chapter XII.

CHARITABLE AFFILIATIONS.

Dear Doctor:—Despite the fact that we have not received your usual donation, I have full confidence in your interest and good will, and believe that in calling to your attention the need we have of your subscription, we but remind you of that which you fully intended to do, but which press of business displaced from your mind. Help us, please, with your usual generosity, and I assure you that this charity will elicit blessings upon your undertakings. May God bless you for all you have done.

Gratefully, Sister Mary Clare.

Thus in an undated letter, the only one of reminder of this sort discovered among many acknowledgments in one of his portfolios, a Sister of St. John's Hospital wrote to Dr. Parker. The oversight, presumably, was unique, for to this charity, as to several others to whose appeal he was responsive, Dr. Parker gave with unfailing regularity. He gave them, as has already been indicated, much more than money, for his services, his acute powers of analysis and diagnosis, were at the disposal of several institutions whose objects and policy he approved. His connection with the staff of St. John's Hospital was continued when it meant very real sacrifice of time that might otherwise have been

financially productive. He gave, at the same time, in the aggregate very considerable sums of money to several institutions.

A spirit of helpfulness was one of Parker's marked characteristics (says his friend, Frederick F. Ayer). His donations of money were usually of comparatively small sums given regularly, for he was always afraid of making gifts that might be misused. Of his time and professional skill he was very generous indeed. If he became interested in a poor person's case there was no trouble or inconvenience to which he would not put himself. His disposition was to follow up cases of this kind and keep himself informed as to their circumstances. His acquaintance with the family stories behind the children at the Ayer home was remarkably accurate and sympathetic.

The gratuitous services which Dr. Parker rendered at St. John's Hospital and at the Lowell Ministry-at-Large went on, as mentioned, throughout his later years, and long after he had relinquished his medical practice. He became the oldest physician at the hospital in point of continuous attendance. As young physicians grew up he sought to interest them in the beneficent work of St. John's. One whose conscientious and unremitting service to the institution he followed appreciatively was his Centralville neighbor, Dr. Joe Vincent Meigs, whose untimely death occurred just before his

own. The story of Dr. Meigs' noble work in this behalf was one of the latest which he filed away.

I am satisfied that the Ayer Home, under its present management (wrote Frederick Fanning Ayer on September 8, 1906), is not doing its best work, or accomplishing the objects for which it is incorporated. There is ample room for accommodating over 100 children, while the Home now shelters about 20. I am informed that children of the poorer class, and most in need of shelter, are excluded, while those of a more favored class are taken in. I am also informed that the system is accompanied by more or less extravagance in the disposition of the funds. Such management has my strongest disapproval, and should be changed. I see no way to accomplish this but by vesting the entire and absolute management in your board.

This letter, the publication of which in the newspapers created considerable stir in Lowell, meant that the managing director of the Ayer estate had decided to make Dr. Parker and other business men of the board of trustees of the Ayer Home for Young Women and Children directly and personally responsible for its conduct. That responsibility heretofore had been divided, with the usual results when an endowment is administered without centralized responsibility. Mr. Ayer was now desirous that Dr. Parker, as chairman of the trustees, should with full authority give his time and attention to the conduct of the institution.

The Ayer Home, with its matron and children housed in one of the most picturesquely situated mansions of Lowell, has had an interesting history.

It occupies the Old Stone House in Pawtucket street, built in 1825 with stone from the adjacent river bed by Captain Phineas Whiting, the elder, to be conducted as a hotel by Samuel Adams Coburn, first city clerk of Lowell. In the early years of the new city it was a fashionable hostelry at which the first families of Boston were entertained. Its vogue lessened with the discovery of the White Mountains and the development of Saratoga. In 1855 it was sold to Dr. James Cook Ayer, then approaching the height of his success as a maker of medicines, and was occupied by him as a residence. After his death, which was followed by Mrs. Ayer's removal to New York City, the house was virtually unused for twelve years. So large and favorably located a mansion, untenanted, weighed upon Mrs. Ayer's conscience and toward 1890 both she and her son gave much thought towards making it useful. The constructive imagination of their Lowell physician and friend was called into requisition and, as usual, not in vain. How much Dr. Parker had to do with the plan for the house

that was finally adopted is demonstrated in the following letter:

Lowell, July 18, 1890.

Dear Fred:—I have seen Mr. Jacob Rogers and Mrs. Rogers this evening on the question of the "Ayer Home." We talked the different charities over and I presented your personal feeling for the orphanage, but both said at once that the Theodore Edson name would prevent the name of Ayer coming out as it should. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers are decidedly in favor of the "Ayer Home for Young Women and Children." I asked if he did not want a few days to think it over and he said not, for it was what would be agreeable to all in the neighborhood, and the given name of "Ayer" would be brought out as it should be. They were enthusiastic on the subject and thought it would be a deed you and your mother would always be proud of and keep the name as it should be. Now, while Mr. R. is with you next week, talk it over and see if this is not the best plan—to make this home of your childhood a double joy to yourself, as it will be to many unfortunate but kind hearted young women. It is too late for me to say more, but your vivid imagination will fill in what this hurried note has omitted. Don't forget to send me the letter you commenced in New York. It is too valuable to lose. Mother would join me in sending love if she knew I was writing. She has spoken of you and the flowers many times. She is growing very weak and I must be with her when I can.

Sincerely yours, M. G. Parker.

Six months after the foregoing letter was written, there followed the formal tender of the Old Stone House to the managers of the Young Women's Home in these terms:

New York, Dec. 7th, 1890.

Jacob Rogers, Esq., Lowell, Mass.

Dear Mr. Rogers:—It is the intention of my mother, Mrs. Josephine M. Ayer, to give her late residence, known as the Stone House on Pawtucket street, Lowell, to the Home for Young Women and Children, and I have sent a deed to her for her signature which I shall have before long. I have myself purchased the other half of the Stone House, belonging to Mrs. Travers, and it is my purpose to join Mrs. Ayer and convey this to the Home, which will put the entire Stone House at the disposal of the Home for its own purposes, and these conveyances will be without conditions. You are at liberty to communicate these facts to the trustees at your own convenience.

Very truly yours, FREDERICK FANNING AYER.

The estate so conveyed covered an area of about 30,000 feet of land with buildings assessed at about $30,000. It lies to the rear of the Northern Canal and Canal Walk, the engineering masterpiece of James B. Francis, and beyond this the rapids below Pawtucket Dam, making the site one of unusual beauty. The gift was accepted and legislative authorization was secured. Under the act to incorporate the trustees of the Ayer Home the following trustees were named: Jacob Rogers, Edward T. Rowell, Moses G. Parker, Frederick Lawton and Charles H. Coburn.

The Ayer Home was founded, essentially as foreshadowed in Dr. Parker's letter. It has had

a notable record of usefulness in a city where much misery is rife. Pleasanter surroundings for children could hardly have been devised.

How faithfully Dr. Parker worked for the Ayer Home is demonstrated by many items of correspondence, by numerous entries in his journal and by the personal recollection of his associates. The Home from 1906 to his death was the charity to which he gave most of his thought and heart. He was proud of the impression, uniformly favorable, which the Home made upon investigators from other cities. When in 1912 the State Board of Charity made a searching study of the management of 169 charitable corporations of Massachusetts, it was a matter of jubilation that the Ayer Home was among the 40 per cent. which were recorded as well managed.

The enlargement of the Ayer Home's usefulness became notable soon after the stipulated changes in its running had been made. In the succeeding February the *Courier-Citizen* announced that the number of children taken care of had grown from thirteen to forty-eight, and that it was purposed to increase the contingent to at least one hundred.

The policy of the management is to avoid making the home take on the aspect of an "institution" to an offensive degree, and to this end there is no clothing of the children in anything savoring of a "uniform," but each is dressed in suitable, individual clothing. The children are sent to the public schools and kindergartens, as far as they are of suitable age, it being Mr. Ayer's idea to fit each for the battle of life by sound preparation such as public education can give.

Accommodations were extended rapidly at the Home in the spring and summer of 1907, and on August 6th of that year, Mr. Ayer was enabled to make the gift to the institution which he had previously had in mind. Writing from the Hotel Samoset at Rockland he paid the following tribute to his medical representative and friend:

My Dear Doctor:—That the Ayer Home has now one hundred children is most gratifying. I want to say to you that to you is due the credit of this fine achievement. The Home needed reorganization. You gave your strong interest and best labor to this problem, and in consequence the new home is an accomplished fact. You gave us that Princess of Matrons, Mrs. Tarr. By your wise judgment and unselfish devotion to details, the Home is now equipped to put the best foot forward and to give to so many children, in need of protection, the very protection which they need. I want to thank you for myself and for the children for the generous performance of kindly services in behalf of those among us who were the starters. I enclose you my check to the Trustees for $100,000, the money to be safely invested, the income to be used for the purposes of the

home, it being understood that the home shall be open to 100 children when there are that number of children in the community who are eligible and in need of assistance.

Very gratefully and sincerely yours,

FREDERICK F. AYER

Dr. Parker's solicitude for the welfare of the children at the Ayer Home grew steadily.

The following communication from a youth who had been among the fatherless children of the Home was found in Dr. Parker's writing desk after his death. It testifies to the regard in which he was held by "Graduates" of the Home, the writer being a young Syrian.

Lawrence, Mass., Nov. 10, 1916.

Dear Doctor:

I have been up to see Mrs. Tarr lately and was told that you always ask about my brother and me. I am writing you this little letter to show that I appreciate the kindness which you showed toward us. We expect to be at the house this Christmas and enjoy one good day. We are all working and getting along fine. My brothers are employed at the Arlington Mills. I am working at the Walton Shoe Shop and making good. I am always,

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM GESSER.

The financial management of the Ayer Home under Dr. Parker's *régime* was, as might be expected, conservative and business-like. The endowment was considerable. Its size, however, never tempted the managing director to spend

more than the income, in trust that generous friends would make up the deficit. No passing of the hat for the Home was permitted, though donations of one kind and another were welcomed.

The statistical results of this stewardship appeared in the last annual report to be compiled by Dr. Parker as chairman of the trustees. From this it appeared that the home for the year 1916 had receipts from income and investment of $34,967.55 and that the disbursements were $14,115.44. The total resources were computed at $330,346.69 of which the real estate was valued at $18,560.22; the investment at $282,540.82. What this endowment has meant, commuted into mankind and womankind, can only be conjectured

The success with which Dr. Parker managed the affairs of the Ayer Home for Young Women and Children led to many attempts to induce him to take part in the practical conduct of other local charities. Conscious, however, of the limitations upon his own time and strength he felt himself constrained to decline to undertake what he feared he should be able to do only half-heartedly.

One exception to his rule of not undertaking responsibility for two generally similar charities is to be noted. The Day Nursery, established originally as one of the activities of the rector of St. Anne's Church, made about 1910 a more than ordinarily cogent appeal to Dr. Parker's sympathies. The social value of this institution was evident to one who loved children and who had seen much of the problems of wage-earning mothers.

The Day Nursery, as its name indicates, receives babies and young children during hours in which their parents are employed. It ensures that they are properly fed and cared for in pleasant surroundings. It incidentally does much educational work among foreign born mothers, whose knowledge of the care of infants is often rudimentary. This nursery prior to 1910 had for years been performing a useful function, but one hampered always by want of money and by debts for whose extinguishment no provision had been made, except through appeals to the public.

Called into consultation concerning the nursery's difficulties, Dr. Parker urged the very simple scheme of somehow getting a definite income and of living within it. While he favored

continuance of a plan of an annual subscription, to which, in view of the importance of the charity, the public was morally obligated to contribute generously, he thought that the first essential was to have a reasonably substantial endowment whose income would meet most of the fixed charges of operation. He understood that no institution can do its best work when the management has no idea how the bills are to be paid.

This businesslike analysis was highly approved by the trustees of the Day Nursery. Having, however, become concerned as to the charity's future, Dr. Parker was not content with giving merely advice. He presented the situation to Frederick Fanning Ayer, the benefactor already of many Lowell institutions in large sums of money. Mr. Ayer consented readily to come to the aid of the Day Nursery upon condition that Dr. Parker enter its board of trustees. The rest of the story is suggested in the following letter to Mr. Ayer:

Lowell, Jan. 7, 1910.

Mr. Frederick Fanning Ayer,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

The board of directors of the Lowell Day Nursery Association having voted to accept your offer to pay off its debts

and to add $50,000 to its permanent fund on condition that no debts hereafter shall be contracted by the association, and that it shall be conducted as a strictly non-sectarian institution, desires hereby to express its appreciation of the approval of its objects which you have so grandly shown. You have so often and so generously aided Lowell institutions that now we can say that it will be our purpose and effort to see that the income of this fund is expended to as good advantage as that of any of the other funds by which you have benefitted our city. Your offer comes at a time when we badly need funds to keep up with the growing demands made upon us and when our sources of income are precarious. With the income from your fund and the assistance of a generous Lowell public, we hope still further to increase the usefulness and field of the Day Nursery and to prove that you have made no mistake in selecting this association as one of your instruments in your charitable work.

Thankfully and gratefully yours,
LOWELL DAY NURSERY ASSOCIATION

The work has not been so simple, the difficulties so generally resolved as Dr. Parker hoped and expected in the less troubled years before the World War. Since 1914 the access of industrial activity that Lowell has witnessed has caused a large increase in the number of wage-earning mothers and with it a consequent demand for the nursery's accommodation. Simultaneously the rising cost of milk and cereals and other ingredients of the simple, wholesome lunches which are provided for the children at

a nominal charge (often remitted entirely in cases where it is a hardship) has made the problem of living within a limited income more serious than might have been predicted. Beyond doubt, however, the Lowell Day Nursery, through Dr. Parker's sagacity and Mr. Ayer's generosity, has been placed upon a basis such that its continuous usefulness in the community is assured.

In the management of other Lowell institutions to which in the aggregate Mr. Ayer gave, prior to 1917, about two million dollars, Dr. Parker was not, generally speaking, active, though his information and counsel was frequently called for by the benefactor. The Lowell General Hospital, initiated through the generosity of J. K. Fellows, who bought and dedicated to the purpose the Samuel Fay Estate in Pawtucketville, and subsequently endowed by Mr. Ayer and others, was known to be in good hands, and while Dr. Parker followed its work appreciatively, he was never in any sense a factor in determining its policy. The same statement is true of the Young Women's Christian Association and of the Lowell Textile School, both beneficiaries from the same source. The growth of these and other institutions of the city was

followed sympathetically, and clippings from the newspapers were kept recording each gift, large or small, which his friend made in behalf of a better Lowell. There was possibly something of a proselyting intent in his sending, in the winter of 1909, a collection of these newspaper cuttings to the venerable Frederick Ayer, of Boston, who acknowledged them with the following tribute to his public spirited nephew:

395 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, January 21, '09.

Dear Dr. Parker:

I have read the enclosed clippings with much interest and thank you for sending them.

I am proud of my nephew for this and his many other generous acts and his business-like way of handling them.

Your friend, F. AYER.

Chapter XIII.

THE MOSES GREELEY PARKER FOUNDATION.

To teach people to live right was much in Dr. Parker's thought in the last years of his life. With the movement in medicine that aims actively, to keep humanity well instead of passively waiting for a chance to cure its ills, he had long been sympathetic and he had in Dr. Thomas F. Harrington a friend who used the influence of a sincere and persuasive personality in the direction of some practical plan of an institute for promotion of good health.

It was characteristic of Dr. Parker's perspicacity and vision that he readily recognized the bigness of such a plan as was proposed, even as he had previously discovered the greatness of its proponent. The superlative is used advisedly. The story of what Massachusetts and the nation owes to Dr. Parker's younger contemporary, born at Lowell, educated in its public schools, at the Harvard Medical School and at Vienna, if told in its entirety, would be impressive. Up to 1906, while still a practicing physician in Lowell, with a residence in Centralville, near Dr. Parker's, Dr. Harrington had proved him-

self a natural leader in the work of socializing medicine. His measurements and other studies of school children's defects and the relationship of these to failure to make intellectual progress gained celebrity in the pedagogical profession. He was one of the pioneers in the anti-tuberculosis movement. He originated the plan, now general in American cities, of flushing the streets of tenement districts during hot waves. His history of the Harvard Medical School, of which he was a devoted alumnus, was a model not only of intensive research but of fearless chronicling of unfavorable as well as favorable data.

So discerning a man as Dr. Parker evaluated fully the work of a fellow townsman and practitioner who was doing things of such moment. He kept in close touch with Dr. Harrington, to whom he made himself helpful in many ways.

In 1905, Mr. James J. Storrow, then chairman of the Boston school board, was on the lookout for an American medical man competent to be medical supervisor of the schools under the jurisdiction of his committee.

The position thus tendered was, at the time, unique in American school systems, differing radically from that of medical inspector. It

involved what the name implies, actual supervision of the health of all the teachers and children, with the assistance of a corps of school nurses. In pursuance of this quest, Mr. Storrow wrote to school authorities, asking them to suggest names for the position. In most instances they replied calling attention to some local man of personal acquaintance and then added the name of Dr. Thomas F. Harrington, of Lowell, with whose investigations they were familiar through the educational journals. This correspondence convinced Mr. Storrow that the man he sought was near at hand, and he personally invited Dr. Harrington to create the new position which he had in mind.

Dr. Harrington's great reputation made in the Boston School system, and subsequently in the State Board of Health, rested on the solidest of achievements. His underlying philosophy was that of promoting health among school children and adults by all the means known to medicine and physical education. An admirable start in this direction was effected among the schools during Mr. Storrow's administration. It was continued, under generally favoring conditions which the election of Mayor John F. Fitzgerald ushered in. If there were certain hampering

circumstances during Mr. Curley's mayorship, these conceivably may have explained the readiness with which the medical supervisor transferred his activities to the State House, these destined to be interrupted by his death in 1919.

With Dr. Harrington, Dr. Parker, as his diary shows, was in frequent communication, after the former had moved to Boston. The two men went abroad together in the summer of 1913. They then talked over plans for a health institute, and the genesis of the Moses Greeley Parker lectureship which for all time will annually bring the public of Lowell face to face with the findings of some of the foremost specialists in health and hygiene lay in the consultations which these two far-seeing physicians had in 1916. It is a foundation that fills one of the medical needs of a community with whose burden of human suffering the founder was familiar from the days of his medical apprenticeship at Tewksbury.

Chapter XIV.

SOCIAL RELATIONS.

Dr. Parker in his maturity had become a man who loved the world and its ways without being in the least deceived by the show and glitter of much of the society to which he had access. He remained, consistently, a person of the simplest tastes, avoiding distractions and encumbrances that might hinder his freedom of action. He liked to come and go without comment or excitement.

His journal, its entries recorded with almost unfailing regularity, shows Dr. Parker to have been prevailingly buoyant and cheerful. He recorded what he saw and what he did, but very rarely how he felt or what he suffered.

The routine followed by Dr. Parker was so varied as to prevent his ever becoming a recluse. Long evenings spent at home among his books and collections were alternated by frequent attendance at amusements or social calls. Two days of each week were customarily spent in Boston and those were crowded with engagements. The seasonal excitements of the larger city were noted with zest in the diary, and a

schedule was often altered to permit seeing and meeting visiting celebrities. The visit of Prince Henry of Prussia to Boston and Harvard University; the conbibulation of the Honorable Artillery Company of London and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston; various Harvard commencements; the Boston 1915 Exposition; in these and similar occasions, as well as many gatherings of the patriotic societies, evolved passing references of interest in the well-filled diary.

The circle of friends with whom Dr. Parker was in frequent communication widened with advancing years, though his intimates were mostly those known since young manhood.

His close association with Frederick Fanning Ayer continued down to the last month of his life. Rarely have two men enjoyed a more uninterrupted or more stimulating friendship.

His business life in the first years of this century kept Dr. Parker in association with many foremost men of affairs.

One of his oldest and most intimate friends in the telephone industry was General Thomas Sherwin, president of the New England Company, whose death he greatly regretted. The overturn in the affairs of the Bell System in 1907

which brought the veteran, Theodore N. Vail, back to the control of the nation's wires, was evidently of much importance to Dr. Parker, for he told afterward with what interest he read a biographical sketch of Mr. Vail prepared for one of the magazines by the writer of this narrative.

The distinguished engineer whose powers of invention and administration, though less well known to some of the public than are the achievements of the financial heads of the Bell System, have had certainly no less to do with the advance of telephony, was one whose career Dr. Parker had watched with zest since the years when the future engineer-in-chief of the continent was a frail looking switchboard operator of the New England Company. With the other directors and officers at Milk Street, he rejoiced in the extraordinary achievements effected by John J. Carty, and the many honors that have come to him, and he liked to refer to this scientific man's case as typical of the opportunities which lie before every American boy inspired by the will to succeed. Something like the popular recognition that was his due came to Mr. Carty through his spectacular experiments in long distance telephony, though these were by no means the more important of his inventions, and when

the results of the modification of wireless were heralded forth, Dr. Parker wrote to the inventor May 1, 1916, felicitation:

Allow me to congratulate you on the great success you have made of long distance talking by telephone. This talking to San Francisco thrills the people with wonder and delight. The telephone has made many men great men, and these great men are now making it possible to talk not only all over the United States but to foreign lands and even to hear the waves of the Pacific ocean talk with waves of the Atlantic ocean.

For Thomas A. Edison and his work, Dr. Parker had an admiration that is quite comprehensible. Following a visit in the eighties to the wizard of Menlo Park, made possible by a letter of introduction from General Butler, he corresponded at intervals with the inventor and saved clippings and other data bearing upon his work. He seems not to have been in personal communication with Mr. Edison for a long time, for the diary records this interview of February 25, 1912.

Called with Dr. Richards on Thomas A. Edison, great inventor, at his home, Menlo Park, by his invitation. Was cordially received and for an hour recalled his "plant" of 20 years ago, when he said Gen. Butler would use a box of matches on one cigar. Edison looks well and holds his strength and good appearance.

Despite virtual retirement from medical practice, Dr. Parker continued his friendship and acquaintances in his profession. The Medical Literature Society, now sadly decimated, met each month, as usual, and often the place of meeting was at 11 First Street. These occasions always delighted "the Doctor." A long intimacy with Dr. E. W. Cushing, editor of the *American Journal of Gynaecology,* was terminated only by the death of this eminent specialist.

Medical conventions appealed to Dr. Parker and he attended them whenever he could so arrange his time. A meeting whose social aspects moved his humanitarian instincts was the Tuberculosis Congress at Washington, in the autumn of 1908, at which were gathered upwards of 4000 delegates from every country of the civilized world. A talk on "Some Aspects of the Industrial Congress on Tuberculosis" was prepared for the presentation before the Unitarian Men's Club at Lowell, the speaker being introduced by Dr. G. Forrest Martin as the first scientific man in this part of the world to make lantern slides showing the *tubercle bacillus,* a distinction which, it is believed, has never been contested.

The greatest of his later chances to extend an already wide acquaintance with men and movements in the medical profession came in the summer preceding the outbreak of the World War when Dr. Parker was appointed by Professor John Bassett Moore, of the Department of State, as one of the delegates to the Seventeenth International Congress of Medicine, held August 6-12, 1913, at London. The trip, though a hurried one, proved to be rarely inspiring. The Lowell physician's companion, as already mentioned, was Dr. Thomas F. Harrington. The two men sailed from Boston on the *Winifredian,* one of the slow and comfortable boats of the Leyland Line, arriving at Liverpool on July 28th.

Some disappointments awaited the American delegates in London. They found the Medical Museum closed upon their arrival and the general arrangements for entertaining the guests were pronounced by Dr. Parker as "poor and disappointing." He greatly enjoyed, nevertheless, the privilege of attendance upon the sessions of the congress, and the long conversations with Dr. Harrington in which the scheme of a definite public health propaganda was outlined. It added to the pleasure of the sojourn in London that General Greeley was there.

Chapter XV.

LAST YEARS.

Dr. Parker's last years were saddened—as whose of mature age were not?—by the dire events that came in train of the Serbian assassination, in the summer of 1914. Though a veteran of the Civil War and proud of Revolutionary ancestors, he, like many sober-minded Americans, had become in old age a thorough-going advocate of peace. It was hard for him, futhermore, at first to place the blame for the conflagration that had been started in Europe. Retaining fond memories of Vienna as it was in his student days, he was quite unprepared for the revelations of Teutonic truculence and duplicity which the newspapers set forth in rapid succession. The journal of several days of that fateful time discloses an unwontedly perturbed and perplexed spirit, as may be seen:

July 27. Boston. Home at 1 P. M. Austria, Servia and all Europe talking war and affecting all markets. At several points skirmishes on the Danube. Intend bloodshed.

July 28. Austria declares war on Servia. All Europe may be involved. Turns on Germany and Austria. Stock

exchanges and some banks closed in Europe. All feel uncertainty. Everything drops to a low point.

July 30. Boston. Cold and disagreeable. War scare bad. Pressure to sell severe. Failures must follow. Largest number of shares changed hands in N. Y. in one day for years. Europe selling our securities. All continue preparing for war. Austria attacks Servia and 1000 reported killed. All stock exchanges close the world over.

Sunday, August 2. Germany declared war against Russia. Seven-thirty. This sets the whole of Europe on fire and terrible will be the consequences.

Dr. Parker's reaction as the tragic events of the 1914 summer and autumn followed each other was like that of most Americans. He saw no escape from a conclusion that the war was deliberately perpetrated by the German emperor and his satellites. His feeling was expressed in many such entries as this:

Oct. 19, '14. Germans trying to reach coast cities, Ostend, etc. Terrible losses. Crazy Kaiser doesn't care, as he sacrifices his soldiers—food for cannon.

The routine which Moses Greeley Parker pursued in the last years of his life are appropriate to a sturdy, vigorous man of middle age. There was nothing of the valitudinarian about him. He never became accustomed to think of himself. His occupations and interests were as many and as exacting in his seventy-fifth year as when he

was forty-five. He still as in youth had the temperamental restlessness which caused him, after a day or two of quiet work at home, to want to go somewhere, see something. If his week end journeyings and his well-filled business days, in Boston, sometimes wearied him beyond his proper fatigue point, he, doubtless never admitted the fact to himself. Prompted by the increasing literature of arteriosclerosis, he had the condition of his arteries examined and was delighted to learn that they were still those of a youngish man. For all that superficially could be foreseen, he might live to be a very old man. His ancestry, despite his father's somewhat early demise, predicted longevity.

Premonitions, nevertheless, of trouble from a weak heart had been noted for years. This fear, his sister has recalled, was one of the motives that made Dr. Parker glad to relinquish his medical practice in middle life. Whenever he had two or three nights of interrupted sleep, indications of disturbed heart action were present. He found the severity of the winters oppressive, especially when it was often necessary to drive into the country late at night. This sense of weakness never altogether left him. From his

sixtieth year onward he occasionally, in his journal, noted some untoward effect of fatigue, sleeplessness or overeating. Thus, October 18, 1894, he wrote:

> Boston, Return 11.30. Finished business and was too tired to remain in Boston while it rained. Find that rest is what I need and with it I feel much better. My heart troubles me whenever I get indigestion.

Some slight falling off in mental alacrity was observable in the last years. It was noted in Lowell that Dr. Parker's memory, naturally retentive, was not so good as formerly and that he had begun to suffer somewhat from aphasia. As he gave out reminiscences of men whom he had known and events in which he had borne a part, it was natural for an interviewer to suggest that these memories ought to be recorded in literary form. To this urging Dr. Parker replied that he could no longer concentrate his mind connectedly on a given subject as when he was younger, and that though flattered by the suggestion, it would be impossible for him to write his autobiography. He then said that he should be glad to tell someone else of his reminiscences, and he made tentative arrangements for publication of a magazine article of a biographical and anecdotal nature.

Out of that plan, in all probability, grew the provision in his will which has eventuated in this biography.

During the summer of 1917,which was cool and agreeable in New England, Dr. Parker came and went as usual. Neither his sister nor he had any notion of anything serious impending, though he appeared perhaps more solicitous than ever before that his affairs should be in impeccable condition. His affection toward his native town seemed to have deepened, with a conviction that he might not for much longer be near it. His last public appearance as a speaker was at the Dracut patriotic exercises on Memorial Day. He talked much with Mrs. Morrison regarding their plans for a memorial library at Dracut Centre, and toward this project he placed ten thousand dollars in her hands, with the understanding that she was to attend to the details.

In July and August, his sister was at Shirley Hill, near Goffstown, New Hampshire, a resort that had the advantage of being only a couple of hours away from Lowell in case either the brother or the sister needed the other. Dr. Parker, meantime, had his usual outings with Mr. Ayer, and he was in correspondence regard-

ing the forthcoming congress of the Sons of the American Revolution, which he purposed to attend.

When, however, his sister returned home in September, she began to feel apprehension over "the Doctor's" condition, though with no thought that his end was near. After a warm day in Boston, he reported being overcome at one of the elevated stations and having to be assisted by strangers. Nothing like this had ever before befallen him. There was nothing especial to do about it. He was not a man who would obey orders from his women folk, so that it was hopeless to order him to quit all his business affairs and to take a complete rest. The thought was natural and justifiable that with the coming of bracing autumn weather these symptoms of weakness would disappear, and the routine of many years past be re-established.

Dr. Parker was not one who feared death. Though untouched by any of the doctrines of dogmatic religion, he often speculated on the probabilities of life beyond the grave, in which he believed.

The sole dread held out for him by the "menace of the years" was that of lingering illness, the

dull waning of life, to a man of his temperament infinitely worse than death itself.

Death came October 1, 1917, as Dr. Parker would have liked it—in one sharp stroke, with inevitable shock, but no attendant horror inflicted upon those whom he loved.

New England Telephone and Telegraph Company

Memorial record.

Doctor Moses Greeley Parker

one of the organizers of this Company, died at Lowell, Massachusetts, on October 1, 1917.

Doctor Parker became interested in the telephone in 1876, as a result of the lectures and demonstrations given in Lowell by Alexander Graham Bell, and soon built and experimented with a private line between his house and his office. By reason of these experiments, Doctor Parker early realized the advantages and possibilities of the telephone, and in consequence was one of the first to assist financially the Lowell District Exchange established in 1879.

Doctor Parker soon directed his efforts to the establishment of other exchanges, to be connected with each other by toll lines, which by natural development led to the successful efforts of himself and his associates to bring about a union under single management of numerous small and unconnected companies. This in turn resulted in the organization of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company in October, 1883.

Of the Board of Directors of this Company he was continually a member for more than thirty-two years, and for more than thirty-one years he was a member of the Executive Committee, giving freely of his time and counsel to further the Company's advancement.

The Directors of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company desire, by this record, to give expression to their appreciation of the valuable services of one whose long and constant interest in the affairs of the Company was unfailing, and to their sorrow at his loss from among their number.

Therefore Be it Resolved:

That the foregoing record be spread upon the minutes of the meeting, and that a copy be sent by the Secretary to the family of Doctor Parker.

Attest: C. F. A. Sinclair
SECRETARY

LOWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Trustees of the Lowell General Hospital desire to place on record their sincere appreciation of the faithful labors of their late associate, Moses Greeley Parker, M. D.

Dr. Parker was a man who never desired the applause of the masses. He preferred the quiet visit with a friend or two.

He never looked to the right or the left to catch the smiles of the passerby. He preferred examination of his own thoughts and feelings.

He never wasted time in idle talk or foolish jest. He preferred the older order of things—sobriety, thoughtfulness.

He never entertained deceptions, frauds, false doctrines. He preferred to be outspoken; bold for the absolute truth.

He never tried to evade responsibility. He preferred to perform every duty with promptness and precision.

He never believed in worthless literature, trashy novels. He preferred books that called for hard study, careful reading.

Of a truth, such a man necessarily made a strong impression upon all with whom he came in contact, his influence even covering the whole city in which he lived.

We would extend to those who were most dear to him, his sister and his nephew, our deep sympathy in these dark hours of their sorrow. Yet the darkness, even to them, must be greatly lightened by the remembrance of such an active, vigorous, and highly honorable career.

CHARLES H. STOWELL,
JOHN F. SAWYER.

November 6, 1917.

AYER HOME

Lowell, Mass., October 27, 1917.

Mrs. Mary G. Morrison,

Lowell, Mass.

Dear Madam:

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Ayer Home held on the 10th inst. it was voted as follows:

"The Trustees of the Ayer Home are deeply pained by the sudden death of Moses Greeley Parker, M. D., President of the Board, and desire to place upon record our deep sense of loss and our appreciation of his earnest, faithful and untiring services in behalf of the Home.

"Appointed a Trustee in 1898, Treasurer October 7, 1899, President January 14, 1908.

"Ever present at our meetings, the welfare of the Home constantly occupied his thoughts and his energy in conducting its affairs was an inspiration to all those connected with this charity.

"The Home during all these years has had the benefit of his practical experience and we realize how difficult it will be to make good the place made vacant by his death."

Yours truly,

CHAS. F. YOUNG, *Clerk.*

LOWELL DAY NURSERY ASSOCIATION

We, THE DIRECTORS OF THE LOWELL DAY NURSERY ASSOCIATION, recognizing in the death of our president, the late Dr. Moses Greeley Parker, the loss of one who gave most freely of his time, abilities and sympathy to the cause of the Day Nursery, and realizing to the full the value of his services to this institution from its inception, desire to express as well as formal words may hope to do our sorrow at the loss of so wise a counsellor, so capable an administrator, and so estimable a friend.

Knowing Dr. Parker as we did, and feeling as we must the hopelessness of attempting adequately to fill the place which he had made so peculiarly his own in the conduct of this philanthropy, we find words but poor instruments wherewith to embody the sense of our regard for his long service and our appreciation of the memory which he has left behind him—not in our hearts only but also in those of the many whom this Nursery has served. And it is therefore

Resolved that this brief testimony to his valued connection with the Nursery be spread upon a specially dedicated page of its records and further that a copy of the same be sent with the assurance of our most heartfelt sympathy to his sister, our fellow-director, Mrs. Mary G. Morrison, and to his nephew, Mr. Theodore Edson Parker.

For the Directors,

JOSEPHINE A. WILLIAMS, *Secretary.*

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

ORDER OF THE DESCENDANTS OF COLONIAL GOVERNORS

Greenwich, Connecticut. November thirtieth, Nineteen Seventeen.

My dear Mrs. Morrison:

I am requested by the officers of the Order of Colonial Governors to convey to you and your family their great sympathy in your bereavement, and to express to you their own sense of loss of a highly valued honorary member in the passing on of your brother, Dr. Moses Greeley Parker.

Very sincerely yours,
(Miss) GAIL TREAT,
Secretary.

WALTER KENDALL WATKINS,
Secretary.

HENRY EDWARDS SCOTT,
Deputy Secretary.

SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

9 ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON.

22 Oct., '17.

Dear Mr. Parker:

At a meeting of the Society held on Fri. 19 Oct. the death of our former associate, Dr. Parker, was the subject of the remarks of several members.

His interest in the Society, during the Society's existence, has been noticeable, especially during the fifteen years he was a member of the Council.

I can express not only the loss to the Society, but my own personal feelings after a friendship of quarter of a century.

Please accept our sympathy.

Yours Resp'y,
W. K. WATKINS,
Secretary.

OLD MIDDLESEX CHAPTER

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

LOWELL, MASS.

December 4, 1917.

Mrs. Mary G. Morrison.

My dear Mrs. Morrison:

With the sad occasion of your brother's death, it becomes a part of my sorrowful duty to convey to you the very kindly sympathy of the Executive Committee as expressed at a recent meeting of the Board and to forward herewith the adopted resolution of Old Middlesex Chapter, S. A. R. as reported by its committee, together with the resolution passed by the Massachusetts State Society and read at our last meeting.

Very sincerely yours,

CHAS. T. UPTON,

Secretary.

OLD MIDDLESEX CHAPTER

Sons of the American Revolution

Whereas MOSES GREELEY PARKER, having been president of Old Middlesex Chapter, president of the Massachusetts Society and president and vice-president of the National Society, of the Sons of the American Revolution, and having been a leader in societies allied by their historical and patriotic interests with the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and having made by his munificent bequests to these societies still more memorable his zealous devotion to their objects, prominent among which is the perpetuation of the memory and spirit of the achievers of American independence, departed this life, after many years of distinguished patriotic activity, on the first day of October, 1917, be it therefore

Resolved that we, members of Old Middlesex Chapter, of which he was a charter member, give expression herein to the sadness with which we miss him, to the depth of our appreciation of his generosity to our chapter, whereby we are enabled so much the better to pursue the objects of our society, the importance of which was so deeply felt by him, whose great grandfathers Kendall Parker and Joseph Greeley were among the minute men who rallied at Lexington on the 19th of April, and whose grandfather Peter Parker served valiantly in the colonial army during the Revolutionary War; and also to the esteem in which we hold and ever shall hold his memory; and be it further

Resolved that a copy hereof be transmitted to his sister, Mrs. Mary G. Morrison, and further

Resolved that a copy be spread on the records of Old Middlesex Chapter.

Ralph H. Shaw,
George W. Putnam,
Committee.

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Resolutions

On the Death of Moses Greeley Parker, M. D.

Whereas the Members of the Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution have learned with sorrow of the death of our Compatriot Moses Greeley Parker, M. D. of Lowell, who was admitted to membership in the Society, September 1, 1892, was a member of its Board of Managers during the years 1893-4-5, its Vice President from 1903-1905, its President from 1905-1907 and President General of the National Society from 1911-1912 and was at the time of his death a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Society, and

Whereas it is but just and fitting that recognition be recorded of his great usefulness, his wide influence, his intelligent and devoted loyalty to the aims of the Society and of our sense of loss in his death. Therefore Be It

Resolved that, holding in grateful and affectionate memory his many virtues, his genial personality, his generous helpfulness in the Society's needs, we record our sorrow at his departure from among us and our acknowledgement of the Will of Him who orders our coming and our going; and

Resolved that the heartfelt sympathy of the Society be extended to his family in their loss; that these resolutions be spread on the Society's records and a copy be sent to his family.

Vernon Ashley Freed, *President,*
Massachusetts Society
Sons of the American Revolution.

Boston, Mass., October 12, 1917.

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Moses Greeley Parker, M.D. 1921
Countway Library AWH8163
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